



**Official Newsletter of the
OM International Sideband Society**

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST :**

- OMISS Webpage profile by John - K0JDD
- A Word from the ABC - W4YQY
- 4th Quarter Net Stats
- Silent Keys

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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E : C H A R L I E - W 4 U Z I

2013 was a tremendous year for OMISS. So many great things happened that it would be impossible to list them all. So, instead, we offer a brief synopsis of the year in review.

Throughout 2013, OMISS experienced a continued, tremendous growth in membership. On January 1, 2013, Ken Newman KB4BJM, out of Florida, OM #8609, became the first to join OMISS in 2013. On December 31, 2013, Dana A. Fouss KB8GYU, hailing from Ohio, OM #9164, was the last member to join OMISS in 2013. Welcome aboard, Ken and Dana.

Not only did OMISS see a huge increase in members, we also saw a significant increase in the number of nets called and the number of check-ins in 2013. Have you ever wondered just how many nets OMISS calls on an annual basis and how many check-ins we have in the course of a year? The numbers are mind-boggling. Nets called in 2013: 1498. Check-ins in 2013: 63,945. Simply amazing, thanks to our wonderful Net Controllers!

Without them, OMISS would not be the class act it is.

There are numerous personal achievements to report from 2013. (See page 9 for additional info)

Special Recognition Segment.

The OMISS Webmaster: Keeping abreast of the current trends towards instant communication sharing, our Webmaster, John K0JDD, made significant improvements to the OMISS Website and OMISS Forums in 2013. These include the introduction of OMISS apps for smart phones, such as TapaTalk, a smart phone app used to view the OMISS Forums, the OMISS app for Android, and the OMISS app for iPhone. In addition, John is currently working on systems automation with the goal of automating most, if not all user interfaces—everything from applying for membership, to voting and submitting awards. John does top-notch work, and OMISS is blessed to have him.

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UNNECESSARY INTERFERENCE WHEN TUNING UP YOUR STATION

We have all heard and had to deal with the “tuner ups” on OMISS Net frequencies and on the air in general. The standing joke is that the OMISS Net frequencies are the National tuning frequencies. Nobody likes to hear those carriers, and I am very thankful for auto-notch filtering, but most of us still have to perform some degree of tuning up. This is certainly the case if you use tube radios, tube amps or multiband antennas that require matching to keep the equipment happy. Here at my station I have two homebrew multiband wire antennas that are perfect examples. Both are off center feed Inverted V configurations. One antenna is optimized to provide coverage on 80, 40, 20, 17, and 10M. The other is optimized for 60, 30, 15, and 12M. In designing the antennas my target was to cover the entire band with a SWR that did not exceed 3:1. I also use a tube type linear amplifier. So to avoid unnecessary interference or prolong transmission of a carrier on the air I have come up with a “tune up system” that helps eliminate or at least minimize the transmission of significant signals on the air.

I have said many times I think when a potential new ham goes for testing they should be required to present their dummy load prior to being allowed to take the test. I use a dummy load for tuning my equipment to full power. Then if necessary I will match my antenna. One aspect of Amateur Radio that I really enjoy is playing with antenna designs and trying different antenna configurations. So early on in my return to the hobby I acquired an Antenna Analyzer. At first it spent a good deal of time in the case waiting to be pressed into service. However, over time I found another way to use it to benefit my station. Like many of you I have a switch that allows me to switch between different radios, such as my

primary rig to my backup rig. On one of the switch positions my Antenna Analyzer stays hooked up. This allows me to “match” the antenna using a very low power signal (approx. 20 milliwatts). I also use a chart for my manual tuner so that initial settings are very close and only minor adjustment is needed to achieve a good match. Once I have matched the antenna and tuned the equipment I am ready to go on the air without having to transmit a significant on frequency carrier. If you still want to perform a fine tune, that can be done on a clear frequency in a matter of seconds, for the compulsive operator, but I have found my procedure to be spot on in most all cases.

This system in my opinion has many advantages besides just avoiding tuning at power on the air. I would argue that it is also better on the equipment. My amp and radio are always tuned into a matched load (the dummy load). The antenna is not subjected to excessive voltage at the feed point due to high power and high SWR during tuning and no RFI due to mismatches. I am sure there are other successful methods that others have found, but the goal is still the same to reduce unnecessary on air transmission when tuning your equipment!

Jerry W5JDF #6949

OVERVIEW OF THE OMISS WEBSITE

(did you know all this stuff was here?)

HOME page



- A link to a [live check in map](#) whenever an OMISS net is active (click -
- An **OMISS Quick Search** feature that pops up the most pertinent information about a member and lets you link to that member's profile
- A **Google** search that you can use to find things
- Direct links to the most commonly referenced information on the including:
- The most current **newsletter**
- A searchable **photo gallery**
- A list of **email addresses** for those who have asked for them to be published
- **Ballots** for voting on peer awards
- A **forms** page
- Links for downloading the **OMISS Mobile app**
- Links to the **OMISS forum**, **OMISS Facebook** page and **OMISS Twitter** feeds
- Your **Local Weather**
- **News Headlines** from a variety of sources
- The **NCS schedule** and **Holiday schedule**
- **Solar-Terrestrial** data at a glance

INFORMATION/NEWS page

- **QSL Bureau** information
- Current **Peer Awards**
- List of all **Awards Issued in the past 14 days**

AWARDS page

- General awards information
- **Military and First Responder** rosters
- **VIP** listings
- All **Award Rules**
- All **Award Recipients**
- A Sample **Thumbnail of Every Award**
- An **Awards History Report** generator

OVERVIEW OF THE OMISS WEBSITE

ROSTERS page

- Extended **membership search** capability
- Downloadable **roster** in text or XML format
- Members living in **State Capitals**
- **NCS** roster

ADMINISTRATIVE page

- **Officer** listings
- Current **By-Laws**
- Board or Directors **Minutes**
- A brief **OMISS history**

OMISS STATISTICS page

- **Total nets** by band for the previous year
- Most **recent checkin** by state/band
- 'Unofficial' **Leaderboards** for members and NCS showing who is the most active

OMISS Checkin Archive page

- Search for and display the **check-in list** and/or a **map** for previous nets

President's Message Continued:

The Board of Directors: Please allow me to take the opportunity to thank all the members on the Board of Directors. Most of what they do happens quietly and efficiently, behind the scenes. If you get the chance, please thank them for their unselfish service to OMISS. They are:

Jack KOMAF, Vice President

John K5ENA, Treasurer

Mike KI6WOX, Secretary

Homer ND8F, Director

Bob KF7UX, Director

Pete KF5RD, Awards Manager

Warren WA4ZOP, Chairman of the Advisory Council

Dal W4YQY, All Bands Net Coordinator

Significant events to look forward to in 2014 are:

January through May: By-Laws Review

February: Orlando Hamfest

February: 2014 OMISS QSO Party

May: Dayton Hamvention and OMISS Dinner

July: Appointment of the Nominating Committee for the 2014 Elections

August: Huntsville Hamfest

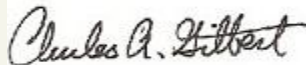
August: Shelby Hamfest

September: The Nominating Committee announces the Candidates for the 2014 Election.

October: Voting for the 2014 Elections begin on October 15, 2014 and end on November 15, 2014.

December: The Election Officer announces the 2014 Election results, and the new terms of office begin.

As 2013 ends, it is an honor and a privilege to announce that OMISS remains healthy and stable as we move into 2014. See you down the bands.



Best regards and 73,

WA4UZI

OMISS MEMBER PROFILE PAGE

What's on my member profile and how did it get there?

Let's look at the profile of our favorite webmaster, K0JDD #6066.

The **Picture** on the top left, and the **BIO** on the top right, are part of your member bio which *every* member can create and maintain for themselves. It's totally optional.

The **Member Information**, **VIP Status**, **Peer Awards**, and **Certifications** come from the membership database.

Home Back
Net Control Guidelines | ShareThis

Old Man International Sideband Society

Member Profile

VIP

Callsign: K0JDD

OM #: 6066
 Name: JOHN
 Email: k0jdd@comcast.net
 Grid: EN34
 State: MN
 County: WASHINGTON
 Envelopes: 6
 VIP of the Net
 Top Op Winner
 Webmaster
 Advisory Committee
 Certified NCS
 Last Checkin: 2014-01-10 02:02:15 80m

Net Control Station

Member Biography Edit/Create

Mini-Biography for OMISS Member #6066

QTH is Woodbury, MN on the shores of beautiful La Lake. Check my [home page](#) for current La Lake weather conditions.
 HF Portable: Icom 706MKIIG w/LDG AT100Pro Autotuner. Icom SM-20 Desk Mic.

In the shack: Icom 7600/PS125. Heil PR-781. Heil Traveler Dual Boomset.

Icom PW-1 Linear Amplifier (added 3/11/2010).

Rohn HDBX40 Tower. Yaesu G-450-A Rotator. Cushcraft MA5B Mini-Beam. (Completed December 26, 2008)

One additional HF antenna - G5RV(102') inverted V with apex at 40' height - N/S orientation.

6M Moxon from Par Electronics.

Two Dual band antennae also -- Cushcraft AR270B Ringo vertical and Cushcraft A27010S Yagi on a rotator. (also seen on the tower.)

APRS Antenna - Cushcraft AR2

Mobile rig is an Icom 2720H. Installed in my 2010 Victory Red Camaro.

Also have an ICOM 2200H in my comm trailer.

HT is a Icom T90A. Also have an IC-V8.

APRS tag is K0JDD-9. [CLICK to see where I am at.](#)

MetroSkywarn #7832. Member ARRL. Member SEMARC - Cottage Grove, MN. OMISS #6066#

I post all contacts in LOTW and eQSL. I QSL 100%!! If I send you a card, please send one back.

MEMBER PROFILE CONTINUED

That black and white box I is a **QR code**. If you don't know what that is you should Google it.

The **Links** take you to other information that is specific to this member.

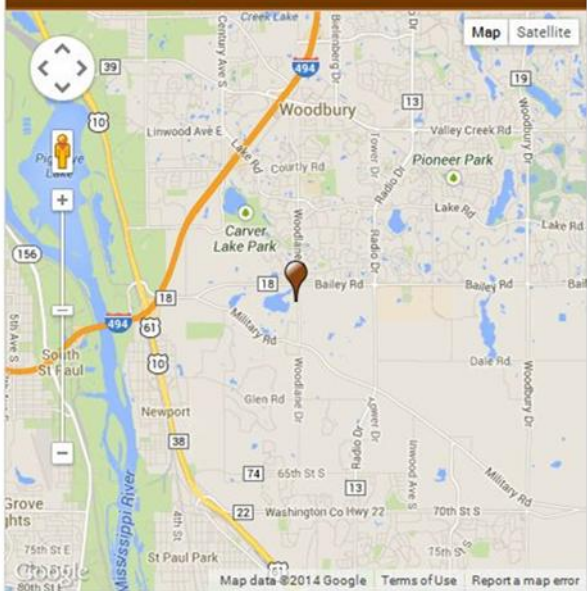
The **Map** comes from your location as reported by QRZ.com

The **Member Photo Strip** comes from the photo album. Anytime someone submits a photo and you are identified in that photo, it will show up here. Click to enlarge the pictures.



- [Click Here to View this Member's Awards Report](#)
- [Click Here to View this Member's 'Family Tree'](#)
- [Click Here to map all members in the state of MN](#)
- [QRZ Lookup](#)

Member Location (clickable...)



Is your location wrong?

We get your location information from QRZ.com. To change it you need to go to QRZ.com and update your location. Once your location shows correctly on the QRZ map, click [HERE](#) to have your location refreshed.

Member Photo Strip - Click to Enlarge - Hover for Captions



A WORD FROM THE "ABC"



We have just brought another year to the end and now have 2013 Logbook tucked away! I hope that all of you and your families had a very joyous Holiday Season. At this time of the year, I always have a period of time that I call my 'Reflections Period'. It is just simply a period where I stop and reflect back on the year that just left us. It has not been a year since I was appointed as the All Band Coordinator and I must say it has been a very rewarding experience and I must say that the credit goes to each and every one of you...our Members! It is our Members who really make the OMISS what it is today.

As you can see in the Net Statics included in this Newsletter, the OMISS Nets are very active with a great amount of member participation on a daily bases. I had always figured that we had some numbers on the number and Nets and Check ins that we have, I was quite surprised to see the yearly totals. In 2013 the OMISS held 1498 Nets to account for 63945 Check Ins! Now keep in mind also, if anything, these figures may be a little low due to some of our Check In List getting lost in cyberspace. All of this could not be possible without each of you...our members who check in, our NCS who are there to call the Nets along with our Relay stations who ensure everyone gets checked in, and our Band Coordinators who make sure that our Nets are scheduled with a NCS.

Speaking of Net Controls. Have you thought of becoming an OMISS NCS but thought it just looks too difficult? The process has never been easier and you will never just be thrown into the NCS slot and it is a 'sink or swim' process. All of our Band Coordinators are there to assist and answer any questions you may have. You do not have to have the biggest station, biggest amp, or even the big-

gest antenna system. If you hear most of the stations well, you are heard well, and have the desire; you too can become an NCS! The process is simple. One of our BCs will spend a little time with you over the phone working with the NetLogger program, usually 30 minutes to an hour with all the 'ragchew' included and answering any questions you may have. The following step will be you calling an actual Net on the air. This will actually consist of what is called 3 Training Nets prior to Certification as NCS, but during these 3 Nets, you will have the BC there on the Net alongside you in case you may have a question or problem during the Net. The BC will only be there as you 'co-pilot' but it will be you running the Net. The BC is there to make the transition into a NCS as comfortable as possible for you and to remove those hidden worries of messing up. As of this writing we are in need of several new NCS on a couple of the Bands and could use the help so if you have an interest, please contact one of our Band Coordinators or myself. We would be glad to have you added to the NCS Roster!

Now as we enter into 2014, I sure hope that Santa brought us all some great propagation on the Bands!

73,
Dal, W4YQY OM#5549
All Band Coordinator

Quarter 4 Net Report										
		Q4 - Oct 2013			Q4 - Nov 2013			Q4 - Dec 2013		
Band	Nets	Check Ins		Nets	Check Ins		Nets	Check Ins		Total Check Ins
10M	8	248		9	390		9	299		937
15M	7	334		10	493		10	512		1339
17M	9	409		9	446		9	571		1426
20M	26	1327		30	1465		30	1707		4499
40M	29	2139		29	1879		31	1901		5919
40M Late	7	189		9	254		9	126		569
80M	31	927		30	1088		30	1141		3156
80M Late	2	27		12	183		9	216		426
160M	2	34		11	281		10	267		582
Total	121	5634		149	6479		147	6740		18853

IS HAM RADIO ADDICTIVE? OR;

You know when you're a Ham addict when:

- You wait for a nice snowstorm to build your next antenna. They will always work better!
- Will actually spend 10 minutes listening to the other station describe his triple bypass surgery order to finally get a signal report.
- Tell the xyl you need a minute to check something on the radio and show back up 3 hours later.
- Spend Valentines Day at Radio Shack looking for 12 volt relays.
- Read and absorb every word on W8JI'S website!
- Go to Eham or DX summit before checking your email.
- Line your birdcage with a complimentary issue of CQ magazine.
- Have your ham radio activities come up during your divorce proceedings.
- Venture into your backyard at 2am in 10 degree weather to check for icing on your antennas with a spotlight able to be seen from space.
- Buy a house based on available antenna trees with proper orientation.
- Quit smoking so your equipment will maintain its resale value.
- Never read the manual to your new radio till after a week or so, when you are totally convinced it might actually be helpful.
- Don't kick the cat because your final pull up line has found the only remaining leaf in your yard and has successfully tangled at 50 ft high in your only antenna tree.
- Have enough buried and knotted up copper wire in your backyard to feed a third world country.
- Have told a nosey new neighbor that you are a NSA volunteer listening station.
- Keep your comments to yourself when the self proclaimed antenna expert with crappy audio and a 2 by 2 signal is having an orgasm about his multiband 20 ft vertical being able to work Italy, and will share the design on his QRZ page.
- Leave your own Super Bowl party early so you can check your new antenna on the greyline.
- Set up a remote station at work to play with some digital during your "free" time.
- Drive 400 miles to pick up an amp to avoid shipping costs **and possible damage.**
- Intercept the UPS guy before that new big box ends up on your porch. Lying to xyl never a good idea, subterfuge much better method.
- Always remember to answer "Is that thing in the backyard permanent?" with "Of course not, just a quick experiment be gone in a few days" Not.
- Still working on that antenna book that's going to take care of retirement bills.
- Dislodge a chimney brick while pulling down a stuck homebrew Windom because of perceived coupling with wire beam. Turns out to be bad barrel connector in the **shack!**
- Spend way too much time writing articles for eHam.

Note; Hi, my name is Sue (the xyl), and I approve this article!

By: Bob - N4JTE OMISS: 1440

TOP OP'S AND NCS OF THE 4TH QUARTER

Top OP for October 2013

N4JLT: Ken Whitehouse, Sr.
OMISS: 1505

Co-Top OP's for December 2013

NCS for the 4th Quarter 2013

Co-Top OP's for November 2013

KA7MPX: Russ Pelleberg
OMISS: 4910

W7JET: Brian Betz
OMISS: 8203

KD0TXH: Dave Tolsdorf
OMISS: 8641

KK5EDD: Edd Alexander
OMISS: 6678

&

N2KOJ: Eric Budinger
OMISS: 8648

Continuation from the President's Message:

Congratulations to the Top Op Awardees for 2013:

January, Bill W5ORA; February, Herb AG4HD; March, Carrie W9FML; April, Carrie W9FML; May (Tie), Vivian W6NWF and Carrie W9FML; June, Homer ND8F; July, Dave KD0TXH; August, Michael KB1JTB; September (Tie), Carrie W9FML and Page WA3EOP; October, Ken N4JLT; November (Tie), Dave KD0TXH and Eric N2KOJ; December (Tie), Edd KK5EDD and Russ KA7MPX.

Congratulations to the NCS of the Quarter Winners for 2013:

1st Quarter 2013: Carrie W9FML #8420
2nd Quarter 2013: Homer ND8F #774
3rd Quarter 2013: Vivian W6NWF #7000
4th Quarter 2013: Brian W7JET #8203

Congratulations to the 2013 OM of the Year Winner:

We are pleased to announce that Carrie W9FML #8420 has been elected by the membership as The OMISS OM of the Year for 2013. Well done, Carrie! Congratulations!

IN MEMORY
(SILENT KEYS) THE LAST CALL



Rosemary Hanrath
KL7LA
OMISS: 2825
Alaska



Pete Dominick
WD5ACI
OMISS: 1388
Texas

David Wing
KA9WGG
OMISS: 2567
Illinois

Dan Stevens
KC7DN
OMISS: 510
Idaho

Gene Teaford
W8AAD
OMISS: 4768
Ohio

Alan Pickering
KJ9N
OMISS: 1311
Florida

Ray Herner
K3OLJ
OMISS: 957
Pennsylvania