

OMISSILE

From the President;

Greetings to my fellow OMISS family and friends, as the first year of our new Board of Directors draws to a close it's time to look back a little bit. It has been a challenging and productive year for myself and fellow BOD members. Our membership rate of growth is expanding at a faster rate than ever before thanks to all the hard efforts of our NCS stations and superb volunteers behind the scenes doing an enormous amount of work and time consuming activities to support OMISS.

There are a few BOD actions that we have implemented to adjust to the fantastic growth of the OMISS family and I would like to share them with you. To avoid potential burnout of our overworked volunteers we split the Treasurer/Membership chairman into two separate entities to share the work load our founding members could never have anticipated. There were parts of the Bi Laws that were confusing and contradicting so our board activated the bi law committee. . Many hours have been spent working on these issues and deserve a major thanks for delving into that situation and presenting the BOD well thought out revisions.

We reached our 10,000 member this year and to really stress the historical and magical significance of this accomplishment we established the first club call in OMISS history, KN4OM. Look forward to many unique and challenging awards associated with this club call. We also updated our award for NCS of the quarter to include a personalized polo or fleece jacket and I look forward to seeing a few worn at Dayton next year!

But Most special to all of us; we issued two major awards. In August, the board of directors awarded John, K0JDD, with the Joe Fish Award for Meritorious Service, for his countless hours managing our website as well as assisting the board of directors, his contributions to Netlogger and having served as an NCS.

At our October meeting, it was our honor to give Homer, ND8F the President's Certificate of Appreciation for his service and dedication to OMISS, only 3 of these awards have ever been presented in the History of OMISS!

In closing, I sincerely hope our newer members enjoy the family that is OMISS and grow old with us, hi. Thank you all for the privilege of being your President. Bob
N4JTE President - #1440





Santa Claus is coming!

The holidays are coming and the kids are starting to anticipate Christmas! Sometimes a great introduction to ham radio that entertains the younger crowd is to let them speak to Santa (or N4JTE for that matter) on the air!

Each year a 14300 kHz regular puts on what is known as a "Santa Claus Net" bringing volunteer Santa's into ham shacks and other places the world over.

Volunteer Santa's choose a clear frequency in the General portion of the 20 meter band and let it be known on 14300 kHz where they'll be. Folks with youngsters to entertain can then tune in and give their youngsters a chance to talk with Santa over the air! This year dates will be December 23 and 24, from 1400 to 2000 EST. Check with the Maritime Mobile Services Net on 14.300 MHz for the actual Santa Claus operating frequency, 14.325 MHz as first choice, but may be operating between 14.305 MHz and 14.325 MHz.

Sometimes lady operators will play Mrs, Claus to the delight of the children. What a great way to introduce the grandchildren to ham radio when visiting over the Holidays! Let them talk to Santa Claus. Explain how radio wave propagate on HF and tune to the 20 meter band to find Santa ready and waiting to hear from all the kids. OMISS nets are a nice alternative as well! See you all on the bands! HO HO HO

Hearing Ourselves

By William S. Butler

In the year 2440 a ham, Atom Eric, call sign, MARS@MRS29, returned from Mars for a mandatory re-gravitating on Earth. His family had relocated from the Moon to Little Rock, Arkansas.

Renovating the property his cousin discovered an old building foundation with a cellar containing an electronic device. He showed it to Atom. On examination Atom discovered it to be a 2015 Yaesu FT dx 1200 radio. He was delighted when his cousin said he could have it.

Atom took the radio back to Mars. Within six months he had adapted the vintage radio to his 100kw hydrogen cooled amplifier. Using a three inch hydrogen cooled signal building antenna he managed to connect to the Cosmic Highway Bands. His first contact, a satellite orbiting Pluto. He received an automated signal report, 20 GEGAs over. Now for the real test. He turned his 100kw beam toward zone 3 on earth as its famous gray line passed over Colorado.

Atom was elated as the old vintage radio speaker came alive, "Mars at Mars Retreat Station twenty-nine, Whiskey seven Juliet India Mike here in frigid Northern Arizona, name here is Jim."

"Whiskey seven Juliet India Mike, have good copy on you from Mars Retreat Station twenty-nine, Jim" Atom said. "Name is Atom. "Three hundred below zero here." Without hesitation Atom started the QSO centered on the specification of the vintage radio.

Jim was indeed impressed. "Roger Roger, he said, "what a find, that's one I've never heard of. Does it have the one-push setup button of the past?"

"No," Atom said, "Manufactured long before that breakthrough. All the settings are manual, even the filters. Has what they called menus. No instruction manual only can guess what they do. You'll never believe it but it has transistors. The real problem getting it on line was the 13 point 8 volt 23 amp dc power required."

"23 amps? Man I only use 10 amps dc solar for my whole house. How the hey you find 23 amps dc on Mars?"

"On my down time I hook it into the tele-transporter's battery circuits using a homebrew voltage dropping circuit board. Still the radio only puts out 100 watts."

"Go figure," Jim said.

"Has one of those antiquated antenna tuners built in. "course no need for it now, but it does still work on the test bench."

"Read about those once, didn't make a hill-of-beans sense to me, hi hi," Jim said. "What kind of signal builder you using?"

"The 3 inch hydrogen cooled ARC," Atom replied.

"Really," Jim said, "haven't seen one of those in 30 some odd years. We got the half inch liquid sodium cooled ARC here."

"Yeah, I'm old timey here, sticking with the 3 inch, too many bit coins for a half inch."

"You do know next year ARC is coming out with the quarter inch version?" JIM said.

"Roger Roger, heard about that, what will they call it?" Atom said.

"The Wrist ARC."

"Dang say again, QRM from Pluto here," Atom said.

The Wrist ARC, Whiskey, Radio, India, Solar Top, Atom Radio, Comet."

"Roger, Roger, wrist," Atom came back. "Dang QRM. We've been here a good 10 minutes and now that Pluto station came right on top of me. No one seems to care anymore."

"Got that QRM here too," Jim said. "Over the last 10 years these lids think they own a frequency. Never hear, 'is this frequency in use,' anymore; and ask for a QSY starts a verbal war every time."

"Yeah, those guys on Pluto run 500k out with as much as a K in. Who do they think they're fooling?" Atom said.

"I hear y'all," Jim said. "When it's a full moon on earth those moonies come up anywhere they want and run 5 wide triple split. I beam them with 10 GEGAs now and then hoping their beta blockers are off, hee hee."

"You know, I even used a signal grabber for them Pluto guys. Don't think they have ever caught on, LOL," Atom said.

Jim laughed, "Good for you buddy. I'd do that here but with my luck know I'd get caught. But, I have sent recordings of those Moonies to the Intergalactic Federation and they don't ever do anything about it."

"So much for rules," Atom said.

Twas the night of the OMISS Net, when all through the bunker
Not a signal was heard, on my old Kenwood junker.
My Icom was near, so I turned on the switch
Lots of signals appeared, guess I bypassed that glitch!

Members were checked in from all over the place
Making contacts towards awards for the ol' trophy case
While waiting to check in and take a few calls
I dashed to the kitchen to stir my meatballs!

When over my speaker there came such a splatter
I tuned to the Grumpy Net to see what's the matter
They were 6 kc's wide and discussing crochet
So I thought what idiots and went on my way.

NCS called for check-ins," come one and come all!"
So I keyed up my radio and throughout my call
"KA7MPX here, number forty-nine ten
I'd like on the list, I'd like to Czech in!"

Net Control said "we heard you, nice signal this way
You're number 44 on the list", about blew me away!
With the net up and running and a frosty cold beer
I fired up Netlogger to see who was here.

I saw Bob and Bruce and Michael and Brad.
There's Dave and Mike and Bobby and Thad
"To the top of the list, let's get this net going!"
Why it's Carrie herself doing all the net crowing!

Her voice was so cheery as she sped through the list,
"Forget the Grumpy Net guys, no need to get pissed!"
Then just in an instant from out of the fray
The QRM stopped, it just went away!

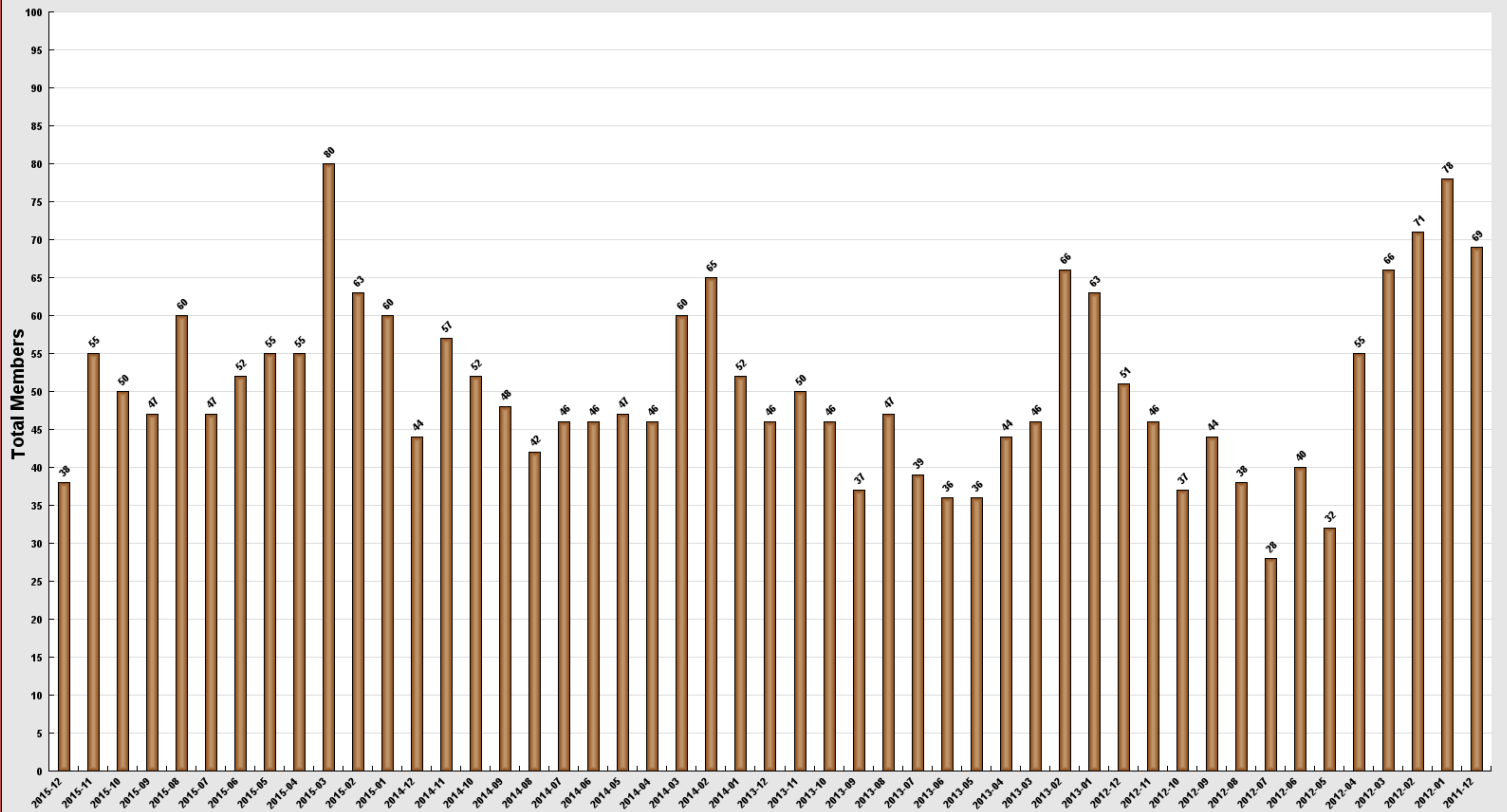
The list was continued with the frequency now clear
When a magical voice yelled "They blew up their gear!"
It was Homer from Georgia, his voice booming and stern
"Those LIDs just don't get it, they'll just never learn!"

Joy could be seen by the posts shown on AIM
Our wish had come true with no slight bit of shame.
No more interference from the guys right next door
No need for the amplifiers to even the score!

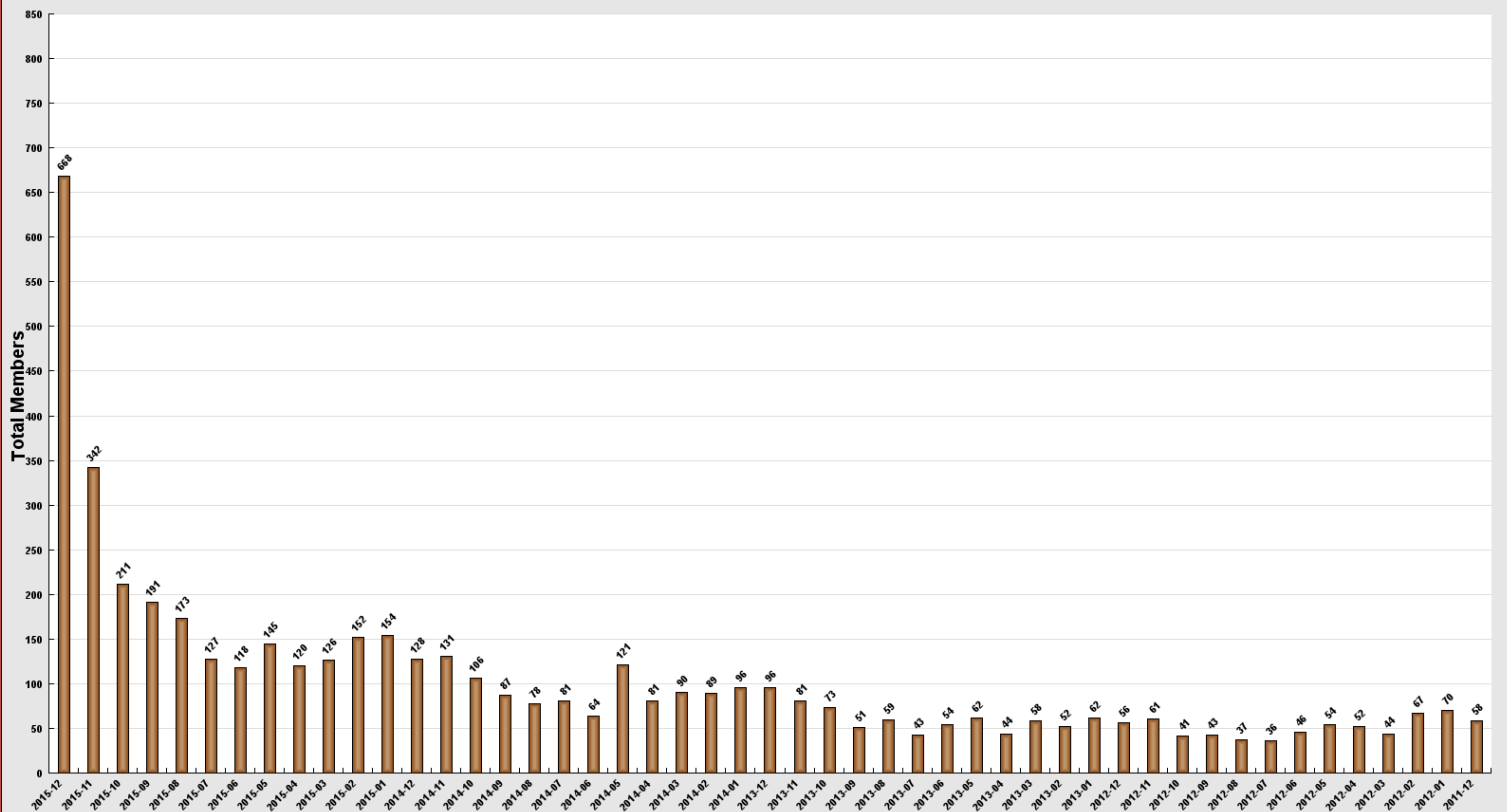
OMISS nets continued on all of the bands
With QSL cards exchanged all over these lands.
Tonight's net was closed with all feeling delight
Happy hamming to all, and to all a good night!

OMISS member statistics. You will need so zoom in to see the actual numbers but these graphs showcase member activity. Thank you to John, KOJDD and Dave, KDOTXH for providing this information for all to see!

New Members per Month N = 2478



'Last Member Activity' by Month N = 5079



Ten Year Trends in US Ham Radio Licenses

Posted on 22 December 2015 by K0NR

In November 2005, I took a look at some statistics on FCC amateur radio licenses. At that time, I compared the number of ham licenses to such things as the US population, number of cell phones in use and the number of birdwatchers in the US. Interesting stuff.

Ten years later, we can take a look at how the composition of FCC licenses has changed. The total number of licenses has grown to over 733k, increasing 11% over 10 years. This is a small growth rate, only 1% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR).

Date	Extra	Advanced	General	Technician	Novice	Total
Nov 2005	107,177	74,351	135,023	317,839	26,882	661,272
	16%	11%	20%	48%	4%	100%
Nov 2015	139,515	48,272	172,239	362,580	10,988	733,594
	19%	7%	23%	49%	1%	100%
% Change	30%	-35%	28%	14%	-59%	11%

No surprise that the number of Advanced and Novice licenses has decreases because the FCC stopped issuing those licenses. Technicians represent about half of the licenses, a proportion that has remained steady over the decade, increasing 1 percentage point. The percent of Generals increased by 3 percentage points to 23%. Similarly, Extra Class licenses increased by 3 points to 19%.

I reported the ARRL membership as approximately 152K in 2005. The 2014 ARRL Annual Report shows 165,663 members resulting in a growth rate of about 9% over 9 years (not ten). I'll go ahead and "spot them" another point of growth in the tenth year and call it 10% over 10 years. So it seems that ARRL membership is roughly keeping pace with the growth in amateur radio licenses, but probably not gaining on it.

Another question is how are amateur radio licenses keeping pace with US population growth? During the period of 2005 to 2015, the US population grew about 9%, which means that the number of FCC licenses is actually growing slightly faster than the overall population. Source <http://www.worldmeters.info/world-populations/us-population>.

At this point, many of us will ask how many of those FCC license holders are actually active in ham radio. Hard to say, perhaps a topic for another post.

OMISS Word Search

P R K S D T O P O P I D C F K
V K M U T G K A R Q Z U J L Y
Y A J L J Y T P A D J A H C T
U Q Q L O K P W S E O E V L R
R Y L E O B A O J M M R S K A
V X Q S R R S Z N P I U R Q P
K W T U K W T T V X S B E J O
X G R U M P Y N E T S L P V S
R P Y S F I R Z O R Y S P E Q
R Y N W W Q W I W C J Q U R A
Y C N E U Q E R F I T C R C B
R E T T A L P S I X Y E E H J
E R U W E P J W E N J J N I O
J M E A T B A L L S V I U E A
I H M P T O M C Z U Q A T A Q

SPLATTER
TUNERUPPERS
LOBSTER
MEATBALLS
FREQUENCY
OMISS
GRUMPYNET
QSLBUREAU
QSOPARTY
TOPOP
NETCONTROL

Print out this page and try your luck at a classic word search with a bit of an OMISS twist!

Words may appear forwards, backwards, diagonally, up and down.

GOOD LUCK!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2016 OMISS QSO PARTY

FEBRUARY 13-14, 2016

See OMISS.com for times and details!

OMISS Elected Officials

President – N4JTE, Bob #1440

Vice Pres. – W5JDF, Jerry #6949

Secretary – W9FML, Carrie #8420

Treasurer – K5ENA, John #4604

Directors – ND8F, Homer #774

- N4JLT, Ken #1505



Don't forget to listen up for the official OMISS Club call sign! KN4OM will be lurking around the bands.....



Propagation Help on the Way.

By William S. Butler

Deep in the southern Louisiana bayous they tell me there are two Redneck Hams working to develop a little blue electronic device that will improve propagation. They will market it as Vigargation.



OMISS on Facebook!

Bad Idea

By William S. Butler

Did you hear what happen to the terrorist that attacked a NRA headquarters meeting?

No one else has either.