

**ORARC Program will be presented by
Darrell Cook, WA4LNX**

Monday, January 8, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**First United Methodist Church
1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN**

REMINDER:

ARRL KIDS DAY

January 6, 2018, 1-4 PM

Children's Museum of Oak Ridge

President's Overtones

by Jim Bogard, KY4L

I first joined ORARC in 1979 on moving to Oak Ridge from the Chicago area. Argonne ARC was the first amateur radio club I joined, and it was abundantly clear from that experience how important a club can be for new and prospective hams. ORARC has been an active and engaged club for a very long time, and my experience here emphasizes also how important clubs are for maturing and growing hams. Darrell pointed out some of our activities in the December President's Notes: Marathon communications, Secret City historical reenactments, regular outreach at the Children's Museum, and strong emergency communications support through our members' participation in the regional hospital net and ARES. Add to that the many quality programs presented by members and guests at our meetings and the technical expertise of our members, some of whom publish in national and international journals, and it's easy to see what a unique club ours is.

We should definitely keep doing what we're doing, but I'd like to see us come back to the first comments in these *Overtones* and develop a more robust resource for new and prospective hams. I'm sometimes asked if there are licensing classes available, and about the best I can offer is to study the question pools. Participation in licensing classes dwindled a few years ago, but maybe we can offer online training and mentoring to the more independent-minded younger generation who might be less motivated to sit through scheduled classes. Comments or other ideas about how to appeal to potential future hams are welcome.

Why am I calling these *Overtones*, instead of *Notes*? Notes are fundamental and provide structure. Overtones add variety and excitement. I hope we can build on our fundamental strengths and find ways to provide additional variety and excitement for our members. (I might have used *Harmonics* instead, but then you'd think I intended to talk about my kids.)

It's a New Year and ORARC Dues are Due

Don't forget that ORARC dues for 2018 are now due. Dues are \$20. You can download and print the Application/Renewal form on the Club's website, ORARC.NET. Bring your form and \$20 cash or a check made out to "Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club, Inc." to **Dan Mantooth**, Treasurer, at the upcoming Club meeting. Or send your form and check to the Club at P.O. Box 4291, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4291.



Here is Dan Mantooth, our new ORARC Treasurer. Please come and meet Dan at the regular club meetings. And bring or send him your check for 2018 dues!

ARRL Kid's Day on January 6: ORARC will operate at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge

The next ARRL Kid's Day is on **January 6!** ARRL's Kid's Day is described as follows on the ARRL website::

Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grandkids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public! Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.

ORARC will operate from the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge.

Kids Day runs from 2 – 6 pm, but we will operate from 1 – 4 pm because of CMOR's closing time. Tim Berry (WB4GBI) gave permission to use the 145.47 repeater (-.600, 118.8 Hz tone). We will attempt 7.280 MHz (LSB) for HF, but we are open for suggestions if you have more experience with HF ground wave.

Volunteers assisting the Amateur Radio Outreach program, or who otherwise interact with children at CMOR, are asked to consent to a background check. Submit consent forms, which can be downloaded [here](#), to the Children's Museum staff, give them to Jim/KY4L, or mail to Beth Shea, Executive Director, Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, 461 West Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. ORARC has agreed to pay the \$20 fee for members wishing to participate in Amateur Radio Outreach and submitting consent forms. Mark the form with *Amateur Radio Outreach* on the margin, and CMOR will invoice us for the amount of the fee.

Outreach is for you if you like seeing the joy on a kid's face at learning something new, and Morse code is surprisingly compelling. You don't even have to know code – we provide cheat sheets! Amateur Radio Outreach is every 3rd Sunday afternoon from 1:00-4:00 in CMOR's Discovery Room; the next Outreach is January 21.

FCC-OET comments on interference DA 17-340

Contributed by Dave Campbell, K8BYP

FCC- OET are accepting Public Comments on a topic which has become quite a problem on the HF Ham bands lately, especially 40M SSB, with highly variable and poor band conditions.

The topic of this filing is 'defining and suggesting how to deal with interference between transmitters and receivers' (paraphrased)

The filing is at this link:

https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/filings?express_comment=0&proceedings_name=17-340&q=DA%2017%5C-1165&sort=date_disseminated,DESC

Or "OET-17-340". On the LEFT side of the screen, click the "+ Express" link to go to a page for an Express (Public) Comment Filing" form. (ECFS Express Comment Filing System)

If you've not filed a Comment before, it may help to read some previously filed Comments by other (Amateurs). Legal training or experience are not required, these are informal comments.

My personal, 'on the air daily' observations as far as the Amateur services are that far too many Hams, and sadly, many of them Extra Class operators, are operating with illegal power levels and using wide bandwidth, over-compressed audio that is causing splatter and excessive transmit bandwidth. In many cases, due to poor propagation, many Hams are using high powered amplifiers to overcome weak conditions and noise, but also, quite often, using power levels not allowed by FCC Part 97 Regulations which state we may only use 'enough power to maintain communications.' It is a common occurrence that Hams are using excessive power simply to boast about "20-over S9 signal reports' which is **ILLEGAL**. It is not necessary to have a S-9 + 20 signal to communicate.

At the same time, a fake argument is being generated, and it shows up in this Filing, that receivers are somehow at fault when transmitters being illegally and improperly operated are causing interference..

Receivers can NOT cause a transmitter to "splatter" and "buck-shot" over 10Kc- this is a deliberately false and deceptive argument, and I've heard it many times on the air. (one, interestingly enough, just before the Hams transmitter failed... that was hilarious...)

Part of the problem with this *Straw Man Argument* is that modern Ham receivers *can't be made much better*- they are state of the art, filtered, DSP processed marvels of engineering.

Such operations are often linked with on the air discussions of 'how to make our transmitter sound like broadcast stations..' and this, the Amateur Service, is intended to be a crowded, narrow bandwidth radio service, not a commercial broadcast service with nice clean shiny noiseless audio.

73 Dave K8BYP

Upcoming Events

Kid's Day at the Oak Ridge Children's Museum

Saturday, January 6, 2018, 1-4 PM

Contact: Jim Bogard KY4L, email KY4L@ARRL.NET

ORARC Wednesday Lunch

Every Wednesday at 11 AM at Shoney's on Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge

For an email reminder for the lunch, write to Willard Sitton at W4HZD@arrl.net

Amateur Radio Outreach at the Oak Ridge Children's Museum

Every third Sunday afternoon (next event is January 21, 2018)

Contact: Jim Bogard KY4L, email KY4L@ARRL.NET

Hamfests / Conventions in Tennessee and Neighboring States

Georgia State ARES Convention & Meeting

January 13 in Forsyth, GA

<http://gaares.org>

Greenwood ARS Hamfest

January 13 in Greenwood, SC

<http://www.w4gwd.org>

GARS TechFest Convention

January 20 in Lawrenceville, GA

<http://techfest.info>

Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 4291
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4291

2018 CLUB OFFICERS

President	Jim Bogard KY4L	806-8069
Vice President	Jim Womack KC4RD	463-0963
Secretary	Roy Freeman KE4TG	482-4474
Treasurer	Dan Mantooth KX4CH	509.528.7826
Technical Director	Carl Lyster WA4ADG	588-7120
Membership Director	Jim Tonne W4ENE	425-2359
Publicity Director	Chet Morris W4GEK	483-1798
Past President	Darrell Cook WA4LNX	207-4827

COORDINATORS

Control Operators	Carl Lyster WA4ADG	588-7120	Public Service	Gwen Cole KF4ROX	457-1806
	Roy Freeman KE4TG	482-4474	Programs	Roy Freeman KE4TG	482-4474
	Ralph Lockhart WB4CTW	945-3890	Trustee-W4SKH	Chet Morris W4GEK	483-1798
Education	OPEN		Trustee-K4PJ	Charlie Hargis K4LF	481-3573
Field Day	Roy Freeman KE4TG	482-4474	ARES Coordinator	Darrell Cook WA4LNX	207-4827
Historian	Chet Morris W4GEK	483-1798	RACES Coordinator	Darrell Cook WA4LNX	207-4827
			Website Manager	Jim Tonne W4ENE	425-2359

Visit our Web Site at

www.orarc.net

Club meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church, 1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Guests, friends, family members, and prospective Radio Amateurs are welcome at all Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club meetings.

Board meetings are at 6:30 p.m. before each monthly meeting. Members are encouraged to attend.

Annual dues are \$20. Download and print the Application/Renewal form on the Club's website, ORARC.NET. Bring the form and \$20 cash or a check made out to "Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club, Inc." to Dan Mantooth, Treasurer, at the upcoming Club meeting. Or send the form and check to the Club at P.O. Box 4291, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-4291.

The Reflector is the monthly newsletter of the Oak Ridge Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Please submit Items and announcements for the Reflector on or before the first day of the month in which they are to appear. Send submissions as Word attachments or as text within an email message, with "REFLECTOR" in the subject line, to Hilary Shreter at ke4bdw@arrl.net.