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## OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2023\_0923

Martin started the meeting at 0904.

Discussion regarding field days and the heat that has caused problems with not only people, but also with equipment overheating in the summer. A location for Parks on the Air and Field Day, and other outdoor on-the-air events so that the people and radios can function without overheating is being solicited. Ideas are going to be accepted on "The Reflector" and at the next meeting for any ideas that are affordable that preferably have power and A/C.

An idea of finding a place that would like to host the gathering for free or low cost, such as a business that would like the some added revenue from a club showing up and patronizing their business and from public interest. A business parking lot might function as the base for the Field Day. Also we are looking into the possibility of joining another radio club for Parks on the Air. Martin has talked to other clubs and they are willing to talk about the joining together.

Martin talked about how to tell how well you are being heard, using another radio station, or using a computer to read the signal strength. Setting the correct mic gain and adjusting speech processing settings is particularly challenging. The best way to check is using another HAM radio operator to check your output. Martin showed an "antique" analyzer that was built in the 1980s (the Kenwood SM-220 Station Monitor). It shows what your RF signal looks like. It has an oscilloscope and you can use it as a dummy antenna to test your equipment. You are welcome to borrow for checking out your own equipment.

FT8 - There is a PowerPoint to be shown regarding propagations of radio signals and Martin is talking about the oddities of the way propagation has been occurring lately. Summary of FT8 it is named after 2 hams &, the 8 denotes 8 frequencies. Software called Net Time will synchronize your computer with UTC or Atomic Clock Time.

Martin was presenting a Power Point from the Lake Area Radio Club that can be found here: [Intro to FT8](#)

<https://pskreporter.info> can be used to check your signal propagation.

And great piece of WSJT- X companion software: [GridTracker](#).

Maidenhead Grid Squares were set up by General Patton. Wiki has a Maidenhead location center. This will be shared on "The Reflector".

In the 1960s, Pirate Radio stations broadcasting Rock and Roll were 3.1 miles off the coast of the UK, to get away from the UK regulations where the BBC had a monopoly. They had taken light ships and started with one, then there were others, and they were all stationary at 3.1 miles off the coast to keep out of UK Government enforcement. Later, a lot of the DJs from the Pirate Radio stations were recruited by the BBC and many of them became quite famous in the UK. It must have been "fun" broadcasting Rock and Roll as your ship and its antenna was Rocking and Rolling in the North Sea and English Channel.

Meeting closed. 1055

*Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN*