
OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2025_0301

March 29th is the next meeting, and the next 2 meetings are at Transtar.

Mark started the meeting at 10:00. Dennis scored a 100% on his Extra license test! The meeting started late, partially due to the traffic caused by 59/610 construction and Memorial Drive Rodeo traffic.

Discussion at the start of the meeting was what radio people are using along with antenna and backup power. Hal uses an ICOM 7300, with Jackery battery backup. He uses Linux box running with the radio, as he likes Linux over Windows O/S.

Barry uses the 7300 also. He likes building stuff and uses a DIY power supply to power a Yaesu 8900R mobile radio on the desktop most of the time. 2m antenna is a automobile mag mount setting on a window sill. Wires strung up between 2 trees is his antenna, end-fed half wave 40-10m. A Baofeng UV-5R is his hand-held and he finds it works best with a rollup J-Pole. He likes the ICOM 7300 due to the features on the radio that allow you to monitor traffic across the band.

Don KI5WWD - Yaesu 600r Mobile is used as a base, with 65 feet of wire that he uses on a gable mount. The antenna cable comes from ABR Industries (<https://abrind.com/>). He was using a telescopic mast that was bent by a tree during the first storm that hit last year. An MFJ wattmeter is used to check SWR readings. Don found that when he tightened the coax really tight that it would affect the SWR readings. He used copper tape on the center post to make the SO-239 on the radio connect better and then he sent the radio in for repair. Mark said MOST antenna problems are connector problems. If it goes in too easily, it probably isn't connecting properly.

ICOM 7300 now has a SWR meter built into the radio, as does a lot of other modern radios. Mark talked about printing out manuals on large paper, two pages per printed page (like an open book) and then highlighting things in green, yellow and red, as highlights to things changed often, seldom, or don't touch. Anything changing the impedance as far as water, cracks in the cable or anything else can affect the antenna output. The louder the static, the closer the problem when looking for a chasing RFI.

When they started building a complex near Mark, he started using his radio driving around the area they were building. As he came up to a place that had a lot of cameras on the pole, he found a really loud spot for static. It was the cameras that were putting out the unintended RFI. He used a portable radio in a coffee can, somewhat like a Fox Hunt, to narrow down the location of the radio emission problem. 2 radios into one antenna is done using splitters.

Common mode chokes can be used with great effect to cut radio emissions problems. We will probably have a discussion about this later. Some A/C units (blowers are

variable speed and use stepper motors - digital signals) produce RFI that you can hear on HF as the A/C comes on.

Neil – rig is a Yaesu FT-DX10 with a telescoping coil antenna. He is having problems with the radio mic showing higher output than he is actually putting out, since people are saying he is hard to hear. He has a Yaesu portable radio for mobile use, that is not permanently mounted.

Mark. ICOM 208 Mobile unit. He has a bunch of radios. He uses the ICOM 7000 most of the time.

Ken has a Baofeng UV-5R handheld radio. Power backup is an EF Ecoflow River 2 Power Station 256W most of his stuff from the AMAZON.

Dennis - uses a FTdx-101D with an amplifier to boosting power to 200W. He does a lot of DX operating and ranked #1 in the world with ~30k QSOs. He has worked 122 countries in the past 2 years. He has an aluminum tower on 3 acres near Lake Livingston at 350 Ft elevation with a 50 ft tower with a 15 ft antenna mast. On the Yaesu radio, the waterfall displays are adjustable and makes the FT101 a lot easier to use.

Mark (new club member) – 2m rig is FT-70 HT at the house. He was looking at a 7300, but Yaesu FT-950 became available at a great price and he bought it just after Xmas. He has added an external waterfall display with an SDR Dongle for the signal source. He has a desk mic, antenna tuner, and power supply.

Meeting ended at 1137.

Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN