
OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2025_0628

The meeting was started by Mark WB5ANN at 0923.

Today is Field Day and therefore the meeting notes are short today.

N5WAJ is the call sign for the Houston Red Cross, which is being used for Field Day (today). The OFARC meeting is going to be using the radio room at the Red Cross today. There are headphones up in the radio room for the Icom 7300 radios. The antennas are set up for North-South & East-West orientation & are about 100 feet high. The antennas are so high and long that there shouldn't be a problem with reception. One of the antennas is equipped with an AH-4 auto tuner. There are voice recordings hot keys that can be set up for calling CQ with the radio call sign, and Red Cross Houston built into the radio if you want to use the pre-recorded call. Everything will be logged by hand, with a radio operator, and a person to write the information down. Time, Frequency, and location of the call are to be listed in the logs. Bandpass filters were discussed by Mark and how they use them. In Houston, especially with the Red Cross Call Sign, people will respond after calling CQ. Will be operating as a 3F South Texas Area 5 "class". When you call the CQ you call out your location. ECHO folks are expected for Field Day.

1300 hours is when the Field Day begins.

When SWR gets to 4:1 the radio (Icom 7300's) will quit working as a safety cutoff to protect the radio. Heat is generated by the over 4:1 SWR ratio so there is a cutoff set up as part of the radio's as a protection circuit. Poly Phaser is a protector you can build into your antenna to protect from lightening. They are a gas filled gap that will pass Rf and static, but a lightening strike will be cut off by the Poly Phaser. You can still have problems if a lightening strikes the power lines unless you have something like a whole house surge protector. A simple plug in surge protector usually will not work because the normal HAM radio takes more power than the surge protectors will allow.

If you are interested in making a solar panel dual axis tracker, the below links may be of interest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AuBC-hoP1w> **How to make a Super simple Dual Axis Solar Tracker without Any Chip DIY (4K)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-W8xT6TYzIs> **How to make a Simple Solar USB Charger with Dual Axis Solar Tracker DIY**

<https://www.youtube.com/@MukGyver> is the channel these trackers come from.

Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN