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# OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2025\_1025

Meeting started on a rainy day at 0904 by Mark WB5ANN

Today will be about soldering. It is going to be a hands-on experience so the meeting notes will be very short.

Here are the soldering class volunteers seated at the table, ready to melt some solder, along with instructor Mark (standing).



You flux the wire before you start soldering. You do this by dipping the soldering iron into the flux, prior to heating the wire to be soldered.



Cutting the wire insulation, you must be careful to not cut into the wire strands.

It is good to have a damp sponge to wipe off any contaminants from your soldering iron.



You can use the solder itself to position the wire in the area of the soldering iron and the solder from the solder spool acts as a third hand.



Finding the antenna ends, you must be sure that there is no loose wire inside the connector that could short out the connection.

You can clean out solder from a connector center pin by heating the tip, and then banging the connector (pin side up) on a surface to get the solder to fall out.



You can make a cleaner for the inside of the connector center pin by soldering a bit above the end of a piece of stranded wire (holds the strands together). Then twist the strands below the soldered area. Then insert the twisted strands into the “hollow” connector pin, using it as a brush. When/if the pin is nearly clean, you can use a piece of solid wire to ream out and clean the interior of the connector pin.

You can heat the wire CAREFULLY with either the soldering iron or a heat gun to soften the outside wire cover.

The copper wire braid needs to make as much contact as possible with the outside of the connector before you place the barrel over it. This is so that you get the lowest contact resistance between the cable shield and connector outer shell and best RF connection.

Use a multimeter (pen style shown here) to make sure there is not a fault: 1) no short between center conductor and shield and 2) no opens to the other connector or end of the coax.





When crimping contacts, you do NOT want to use pre-tinned stranded or solid core wire. Thermal expansion/contraction will cause the crimp to weaken over time. Stranded wire without pre-tinned solder will conform to the crimp better and will be much less susceptible to joint failure over time. Soldering the connection after crimping for either type of wire is the best and most reliable connection.

Get your project together, then clean up the area, test the connections and look at your project so that you have not forgotten something as far as the connections you are trying to make. That way you don't get into soldering pieces together and realize that you have missed something. If you are wearing shorts, make sure you have something like chaps. NEVER try to catch a falling soldering iron. BAD MOVE!

*Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN*