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# OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2026\_0328

The meeting took place at the American Red Cross building and was kicked off by Donald, KG5PFN at 9:09. About 12 people were in attendance. There were four guests that came to take license exams.

There was a memory test demonstration for remembering names with participants including Tyler, Jacob, Juan, Roger, Ken, Donald, Barry, Wes, and MarkC

The members were asked to introduce themselves, first name only along with the name of their favorite fruit. After each introduction, the new participant had to recite the name and fruit of each of the previous participants. It is a surprisingly simple and effective way to remember people.

Roger, K0KON, brought a 6 meter horizontal dipole antenna. One piece of 5/8" tubing make up each leg of the dipole. He has a fiberglass rod that is seriously strong for the insulator, inserted inside each leg of tubing in the dipole center. The antenna was pole-mounted about 15 feet in the air (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  wavelength). There is a telescopic length of tubing inside of the 5/8" tubing for adjusting the antenna. The ideal leg length should be 4.7' long and adjusted for minimum SWR. There are hose clamps to keep the tubing from sliding after it is adjusted, or to keep the parts tight as they are adjusted. The plans for the dipole can be found here: [https://www.ofarc.org/documents/presentations/Antennas/6m\\_Rotatable\\_Dipole.pdf](https://www.ofarc.org/documents/presentations/Antennas/6m_Rotatable_Dipole.pdf)

Buying parts to make antennas at Home Depot is expensive; sometimes you can get stuff cheaper at places like:

Port City Surplus 5305 Jensen (713) 870-3866 or

Rose Steel Center 3610 Pinemont Dr 77018. <https://rosteelcenter.net/>

Wes, KF5UKF, talked about his experience doing cave rescues in Tenn, GA, AL and how people were rescued from high locations. He has a rope over 400 feet long. Ropes are either man rated or not. Some non-man rated ropes can be used to position the man rated rope into position. After 15 minutes a person who is unconscious in a climbing harness is in danger of getting a blood clot when removed from the harness. Man Rated ropes are primarily made by 2 companies. They have very little stretch. When you bend rope, you cut the strength of the rope. They often wrapped 3 times around a tree to tie things off, and that is easier on the rope. Regarding rope size, 5/8" is standard;  $\frac{3}{4}$ " is used for heavier duty work.

Discussion of safety while climbing towers. Nobody stands under anything going upwards. Climbing harnesses are used when climbing water towers and antenna towers. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am

*Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN*