# OFARC Monthly Meeting Minutes 2026_1024

The meeting took place at the American Red Cross building and was kicked off by Mark Landress at 9:20 am. The attendance was moderate. Two people came for testing, all passed. New member, Peter (blind handicapped) joined us. He recently moved here from Roswell, New Mexico and naturally, we all had to introduce ourselves.

Roger frequently operates his rig with a computer using FT8 and FT4 digital modes that are some of the most popular HAM radio modes in use today. He told us about a new mode called JTTY (pronounced jitty) that uses the same WSJT-X (weak signal) software. This mode uses 4 GFSK modulation. It removes the blocked-time interval requirements in the exchanges so you don't need to synchronize the clock. The exchange is free-form much like RTTY that was popular decades ago. It is highly conducive to "rag chew" QSOs. Roger showed us a youTube of a guy who demonstrated the mode and actually logged a QSO with Roger in the video! See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U01AktAezqk The designated frequency (band plan?) for 20m is 14.090 vs. 14.074 MHz customary for FT8/4 and JS8Call. Note: Transmission rates are 30 WPM for typed messages and about 60 WPM for macro messages. As with all modes supported by WSJT-X, forward error correction is inherently supported. JTTY is not very old and there are already a bunch of updates to the software that improve the operating experience. If you are familiar with FT8, you'll not have any trouble with the user interface. Logging QSOs is automatic.

Mark told us he used to operate RTTY (Radio TeleType) with a model 19 teletype machine. He dug up a number of videos describing the technology. Teletype machines use a 5-bit digital code without error correction. Early machines were completely mechanical, encoding/decoding the symbols using 5 bars with cams attached. Since there are 26 characters in the alphabet, you'll quickly realize 5 bits can only cover 32 permutations, not enough to cover all letters (caps only), numbers and special characters. A shift code is used to expand the number of permutations (symbols) to 63. What started out as analog is now digital. The OLD style machine weighed 150 lbs. See: https://www.reddit.com/r/engineering/comments/a4tfqy/ "Teletype_model_19_and_model_15_demonstration/" has information on this style for radio transmission. It uses is a frequency shift mode of modulation, commonly called FSK. These machines go back to the 1930s and that is the basis of the program shown at the meeting: 1930 meets 2026. The keyboard keys had shock absorbers built into the keys so operators wouldn't bruise their finger tips.

Barry brought an iambic electronic keyer from HamGadgets for Morse code that he'd modified to run on two D cell batteries instead of a CR2032 coin cell mounted on the keyer PC board. One paddle creates dots and the other creates dashes. The keyer generates perfectly timed dashes and dots (a 3 to 1 ratio). It is micro controller-

based and is highly configurable. There is a potentiometer for controlling the CW speed. The keyer is sold in kit form; all parts are through-hole. Barry prepared a presentation proposing we use the next meeting for kit building, using 5 soldering stations and teams of 2 or 3 builders per station. There are about 20 components that need to be soldered to a small PC board, about 2" square. While there was no time for Barry to give his presentation at the meeting, it can be found here: Soldering_Project_2026.pdf
Eleven members at the meeting raised hands expressing interest in participating in the build. The cost per kit is $40 and a vote was taken and it was approved to expend club funds to buy kits. Mark and Barry are organizing the build. They will need to gather soldering stations (irons and tools) for the builders to use.

Barry announced that he has reserved the party room at the Spaghetti Western Cafe for the 2026 Christmas Luncheon, to be held at 1:00pm on Sunday, December 13th. Park in the rear of the building to avoid the heavy traffic on Shepherd Drive.

Don brought a signal generator instrument (somewhat of a boat anchor) that can be used to calibrate receivers and tune superhet IF amplifier stages. Mike Perkins purchased it for an undisclosed amount.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21st (3rd Saturday) to avoid a conflict with Thanksgiving holiday travel plans.

*Minutes Recorded by Ken Wenzel, KW5KEN*