

ISSUE

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January
2026

The Wireless

Newsletter of the
Owensboro Amateur Radio Club

Our next meeting will be January 20

at the downtown Owensboro Community & Technology College (OCTC) classroom building located at 1501 Frederica St, Owensboro, KY 42301. The Executive Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m., and the membership meeting and program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please park and enter from the rear of the building. (All times are Central Time)

WINTER FIELD DAY JANUARY 24-25

Jim Thompson, WB0NEX, is volunteering the use of his home station in east Owensboro for the event where it will be nice and cozy regardless of the weather outside. The 30-hour event starts at 10:00 a.m. CST on Saturday and ends at 3:59 p.m. on Sunday.

If there is sufficient interest, we will finalize our plans at the January 20 OARC membership meeting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season! Janie and I sure did. We spent both Thanksgiving and Christmas weeks in the Nashville area where our two sons live and enjoyed visiting with them and our grandchildren. We also had a good time and fellowship with those of you who attended the club's Christmas dinner at Old Hickory Barbecue on December 16th.

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get to work on planning the direction forward for the Owensboro Amateur Radio Club in 2026. As Tom Johnson, KO4PVE, has completed his constitutional term limit as president and passed the gavel on to me, I feel both humbled and excited about assuming the leadership of the OARC for this year. I hope with your help to build on the work that Tom and his predecessors have done in the past years and take the club to even greater achievements, and I feel that this can best be accomplished by growing our membership which at the present is only represented by less than ten percent of the number of amateur radio licensees in Daviess County. Imagine what we could do as a club if we

doubled or even tripled our membership! We all know other hams in the area who are not OARC members, and perhaps they just need an invitation to a meeting to see what we are doing and hopefully pique their interest enough to join us. I also know that there are several former members out there who for various reasons decided not to renew their membership in years past. We need to ask them why to find out how the club may not have filled their expectations or needs and see how we can improve. I can say this because I was one of the ones who did not renew my membership for a few years, and no one called or came to see me to ask why I had chosen not to renew.

I have an ambitious agenda for 2026, and perhaps some will say that it is too ambitious, but we won't know until we try, and when I say "we", I mean each of us and all of us as a team. I will need help, and I hope that you are ready and willing!

I will be forming an executive committee which will include the elected officers and directors (the board of directors) plus committee chairpersons and other appointees. Our constitution and bylaws (continued on next page)

Membership dues for 2026 have been reduced!

For 2026, membership dues are now \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for everyone in the same household at the same address. If a husband and wife are both hams, the dues are just \$20.00, or if only one member of a household is a ham anyone else in that household can join as an associate member for the same rate. Visit our website www.k4hy.net for more information.

Newsletter Editor for OARC needed

If you would like to be the editor of our monthly newsletter, call or text Jim Mason at 270-315-8292

2026 OARC Board of Directors

President – Jim Mason

Vice President – Pat Van Winkle

Secretary – Teresa Van Winkle

Treasurer – Steve Morgan

Director – Tom Johnson

Director – Jim Thompson

Director – Art Jackson

The Board of Directors plus

committee chairs and other

appointees will make up the

Executive Committee.



give me direction on the committees and appointments that a president is expected to name at the beginning of each year, and so I will be working on that during the next couple of weeks. If you are called upon, I hope you will say YES!

Starting this month, we will discontinue holding the business meetings over the Zoom platform a day or two before the membership meeting. I have noticed that the Zoom meetings are poorly attended even by board members, so I plan to have a meeting of the executive committee at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month before the membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. The general membership can attend and observe the executive committee meeting if they desire, but I have heard that some members are not interested in the business of the club, and that is their prerogative.

The membership meetings

will be primarily for necessary announcements and a program of general interest to the membership, hopefully to learn something new or to get more enjoyment out of the hobby.

At the January executive committee meeting, I would like to have the committee work on a calendar of events for 2026 with at least one group activity each month in addition to our monthly meetings. These activities might include participating in contests under the club call of K4HY, conducting a foxhunt, a group Parks on the Air (POTA) activation, participating in emergency preparation drills, family picnics or dinners, helping new hams with setting up their stations or antennas (Elmering), etc. For those who may be interested in contesting or dx-ing, perhaps we can set up a radiosports team. **The opportunities are unlimited!**

For our January membership meeting, I will be

December 16, 2025 Christmas Dinner

Thanks to all who attended who attended the OARC Christmas Dinner at Old Hickory Barbecue!

asking all the repeater owners and trustees, as well as those who maintain gateways and nodes for special purposes, in Daviess County to come and discuss the status and capabilities of their equipment. Most of these repeaters and gateways are underutilized, and I believe that much of the reason is because we don't know that they are there or don't know how to access them.

Remember when you passed your first license exam and received your call sign from the FCC and how excited and proud you were? Let's try to rekindle that excitement! Wear your call sign proudly and let people know that you are a HAM!

73, and I hope to see you on the 20th!

Jim Mason, W14W



Visit our website www.k4hy.net and Facebook page for the latest club news and updates.