

My Dear Friends,

There is an old saying, "May you live in interesting times". Some say it is a curse you wish upon your enemies, others believe it is the curse of every generation; to see their time as "unique" and "interesting".

We have come to understand that we, too, live in interesting times. But I don't see it as a curse, I see it as an opportunity!

Our current nationwide struggles with this pandemic continue to impact every aspect of our lives. The Ogden Amateur Radio club certainly is not exempt from these impacts.

Current input from members participating in the Ham and Eggs net, e-Mails through the Yahoo group, and deep concerns from the Board members for the continued health and safety of the Club members, the Board has voted unanimously to suspend large in-person meetings until the end of 2020. This decision will affect the August Steak Fry, the October and November club meetings, and the Christmas Party. The September Swap meet will be a personal choice for those wishing to attend.

The current and future Board members have been tasked with finding effective and interesting ways to celebrate and support the Club and its members. We have chosen not to meet in large, in-person meetings but to explore alternative ways we can interact as a Club with interesting, fun, and creative ways.

As amateur radio operators, we have the ultimate social distancing platform. We now have the opportunity or even a duty to make amateur radio even better than it has been. We have the ability to reach out and have a positive impact in someone else's life, no matter where they live.

Where will your next acquaintance be located? From the earliest spark gap transmitters spattering their signals across the seas, to voice transmission, talking through satellites or repeaters, bouncing signals off the moon, sending images, and even making contact half way around the world using just a few watts of power with FT8 and similar modes, amateur radio continues connect people everywhere. IRLP, Echolink, d-Star, WiresX, and other modes are available to technician class license and above. General class license and above have even more flexibility with the HF bands.

We encourage you to take full advantage of licensing privileges to reach out and contact people; locally, around the country, and across the world! Remember, this is a Global Pandemic. People all over the world find themselves in the same situation that we find ourselves in!

It is only a matter of time before this Pandemic comes to an end. Vaccines are in the works, our healthcare professionals are learning more about how to treat and cure this disease. As the saying goes, we truly do live in interesting times!

As you know, the Steak Fry is also the time that we renew our memberships in the Club. We would like to continue this tradition by having everyone do one of two things:

- 1) Use PayPal from our website to renew your membership
- 2) Print the membership form and mail it in to the Club with a check

I, myself, have used the PayPal method. I found it to be easy enough. The only thing I'd like to see more is the ability to have a recurring payment, so I don't have to worry about it again!

We also take care of the elections in August. If you've ever thought about serving the Club in a board or support position, I would encourage you to contact our Nominations Committee and let them know what position you'd like to be considered for! During the next three weeks, we are taking the names of those interested, and then we will have the elections online! We are working on that now, and it will be ready in time to have elections before the end of the month. We will announce the results of the elections on the Ham-n-Eggs net on the 1st of September. We would like to have all nominations in by the 25th.

I'd like to thank you all for your support of this club and I appreciate your willingness to support us as we deal with these interesting times!

As things move forward, the Board will continue to assess the situation and make changes to our plans. We are already talking about doing another Poker Run and another T-Hunt. And as things change, we will adapt to make the most of it for you, our Members! We are hopeful and excited for what the future brings!

Thank you for your time and patients!

Dave Mamanakis, KD7GR – OARC President

Gil Leonard, NG7IL – OARC Program Director