

OEN Board Meeting Notes

March 11, 2026 Larry W7HLR

-All board members were present except Rick, AI7JN, who is seriously ill . Other net controls and relay stations who checked in included Dan AJ7FV, Daniel WV1T, Max KJ7FEE, Jagur N7HEX, Cyndi KK7AZD, Rob AC7WU, and Mike W7ALX. Probably others that I missed.

-Special thanks to all the net controls/relays, and congratulations to all the new members.

-There was a unanimous vote in favor of trying to organize one or more picnics this year, probably in late July or early August, with the caveat that several folks expressed difficulty in being able to commit to a date that far out or making the trip if the distance is too great. Consensus was to narrow down specific sites to McMinnville and Sea-Pac. I will get more specifics about the McMinnville Air and Space museum location and Joe WA7JAW will work on additional Sea-Pac possibilities.

-Although thoughts were still somewhat mixed about the OEN role in emergency situations, the majority did not want to make any big changes from the decisions made by the Board in 2025. Going forward, we will:

1. Remain outside the National Traffic System
2. Not accept formal non-emergency message traffic unless a taker volunteers immediately and can move off frequency.
3. Accept informal message traffic if a taker is available. This would generally mean making a phone call or local visit to deliver a message.
4. Make all reasonable but limited efforts to assist in emergency situations whether that involves formal traffic, informal traffic messages, or directing requests to other venues.
5. Ask for volunteers to stay on the OEN frequency during actual emergencies in order to manage traffic, provide information, and reduce chois.

-Cyndi, KK7AZD, will try to develop a guide to be used by net controls for directing message holders to other sites such as ARES groups or affiliated nets on HF or VHF. Harold, W7DPS, Rob, AC7WU or others may have information to assist Cyndi.

-Rob, AC7WU has volunteered to take over the Data Base manager position over time and if other things don't get in the way. I may have misunderstood, but I think I heard Gary, AG7TH also volunteered. I will generate the monthly files until the transfer from Rick to me is stable and Rob or Gary are ready.

-Please use one of the two following attached lists of addresses when sending OEN group emails , “OEN General” or “OEN NORCORBRD”. OEM General is the larger OEM group who have requested to see general interest items such as rosters and newsletters. It contains about 65 addresses. The NORCORBRD list is just for net officers, net controls, relay stations and key contacts usually regarding net operations. It has about 22 addresses. Observe the format of the address such that the callsign suffix shows first in the displayed address. Send any list of additions or deletions to me. Do not use “blind copies”. There are ways to avoid having to retype each email address into your email client, the easiest of which is to open one of my recent emails and click on “reply all” . If necessary, delete text from the email that I sent and then proceed to write your new email. All that said, please avoid using “reply all” generally unless the group needs to see your reply.

-There were several interesting comments regarding “Why do you like checking into the net?” One common thread was “Tradition” and “Memories of old”. Another was “friendship” and finally “technical stuff” like making antennas.