

New to HF? New to Ham Radio?

I became a new Ham in May 2007 as a General Class licensee. I had dreams of working HF and "seeing the world" via radio! I had a pretty good idea of what I wanted to accomplish in my first year on HF but I had no real idea on how to go about it. I didn't know when to listen, on which bands, or where stations calling CQ were likely to be found. Sun-spots were just something that I had learned about in preparing for the test. Between June and early October of 2007 I managed to make just 12 HF contacts primarily during big events like Field Day and various State QSO Parties. It was disheartening...

On October 13, 2007, I discovered OMISS. In *three short months* I completed the Basic WAS (Worked All States) by checking into the OMISS nets whenever I could. I now have 42 states worked on 80 meters and a Single Band WAS is now within my grasp. I have a way to go on the 40-meter and 20-meter bands but the path to get there is very clear. I have even worked Canada, Cuba, and The Azores! I would not have done any of this by now without participating in the OMISS nets.

Now I admit that I like awards — and on the surface OMISS is about awards — but I think OMISS has more to offer than just the awards. It has given me some unexpected benefits, which I hope you will agree, are worth more than any award certificate.

Confidence—Although I was never what you would call mic-shy, I *was* worried I would make stupid mistakes and come off as a LID! OMISS has allowed me to learn and practice good operating procedures and build confidence in my operating skills in an environment that is easy-going and non-judgmental.

Patient Encouragement—Without exception ALL of the OM's (and Ladies) I have encountered on OMISS have been patient with new operators and in the true HAM spirit they are more than willing to offer a good word or help out. Even if they should need to correct someone for failing to follow good operating practices they do it with class and respect.

Role Models—Even a non-ham can pick out the A1 operators just by listening. They are smooth, efficient, they get the job done correctly, they have fun doing it and they make it all seem effortless: They are people you want to be like. I will not name names here but there are many OMISS members that I want to be like. I learn from them every time I hear them, I try to remember what I have learned and then put it into practice.

Fellowship—Between the on-air banter and the Internet chat room that is used as a back channel, there is a feeling of camaraderie within OMISS. I have a many new ham friends at OMISS and as time goes on I am sure I will have a lot more. I have tried other organizations with similar nets but, quite frankly, they do not feel the same to me.

OMISS makes you feel welcome. It is a friendly place to visit. If you visit once I guarantee that you will want to come back. The net schedule is printed elsewhere in this brochure and is also available on the OMISS web site at www.omiss.net

Next time you are itching to make a QSO take my advice and check out OMISS. Tell them K0JDD sent you! I am certain you will have a good time and I look forward to our first contact. **See you on the Net!**

The OMISS Net Schedule

Please note that some nets operate on a "seasonal"

Band	Freq (MHz)	Day	UTC	Net Coordinator
160M	1.865	Sat/Sun	0400	WU8Q J.R. #3672
80M	3.9405 MHz	Daily	0200	KR2C, Kurt #5916
80M Late	3.942	Sat/Sun	0500	KR2C, Kurt #5916
40M	7.185	Daily	0100	N4JTE, Bob #1440
40M Late	7.185	Sat/Sun	0300	N4JTE, Bob #1440
20M	14.290	Daily	1830	K0MAF, Jack #5274
17M	18.165	Sat/Sun	1900	KA8III, Jim #5952
15M	21.360	Sat/Sun	1700	N7FUD Ron #1914
10M	28.665	Sat/Sun	1800	ND8F Homer #774

CHECK INS BEGIN 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO NET START!

Please check the OMISS website for special events and additional or expanded nets due to holidays or seasonal additions!

Visit www.netlogger.org and download the free program we use called NET LOGGER. The software provides real-time check-in information, instant messaging while nets are in progress, logging and QSL label printing... Best darned ham radio program out there!

Be sure to check out the multitude of original, amazing awards available through OMISS!



Greetings! My name is Greg, AE9W, current President of OMISS. Please allow me to take this opportunity to invite you to check out our group!

OMISS, or "Old Man International Sideband Society," is an awards net operating in the General class segment of the amateur bands

and has been operating since 1981. It is a fun group with a variety of Amateur Radio Operators from all over the United States, Canada and the world. We operate nets on most bands and have at least one net each day with multiple nets to enjoy on weekends. Check in as often as you wish. You don't need a big signal to participate – we have stations running QRP mixed right in with the stations running a full KW!

Want to get your WAS quickly? This is a great place to get it done. Do you like to work lots of stations for unique awards? We have several challenging awards to work toward and each one is an attractive certificate suitable for display on your wall when you get it. Do you like contesting? We hold an annual QSO Party and invite the whole Amateur community to participate.

Many of our members have been checking in for several years and many long-time friendships have been formed over the air as a result. Our Net Control Stations are a blend of seasoned veterans as well as brand new members with only a few nets under their belt. Many of them run the nets using only 100 watts of power so don't be bashful: Jump in – we'll help you get started.

Sound like fun? We sure think so! We look forward to welcoming and helping you get the most enjoyment out of our nets as possible.

You don't need to join to check in and see what it's all about but we're pretty sure you will want to after you experience it for yourself. I could go into a long-winded sales pitch here but I believe the OMISS NET speaks for itself. Come check us out.

73, Greg AE9W OMISS #3331

Visit us on the web at www.omiss.net!

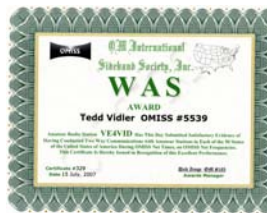
Membership & Awards

Our awards are available to OMISS member stations only. To become an OMISS member simply work two members on any net, record their OMISS membership number, and submit the date, time, frequency, call sign, and OMISS number of your two qualifying contacts on a membership application form (available on our website!) along with a \$7.00 membership fee to our membership chairman, John Campbell , K5ENA.

OMISS uses the “honor system” for their awards. Log information of qualifying contacts is all that is required to apply for an OMISS award! For complete information on awards rules and application procedures please visit our website!

Contacts for all awards may be made on any of the bands used by the OMISS Net at net times. Unless otherwise stated, such as for certain Award Plaques, all awards or endorsements require a \$1.00 fee. Endorsements are available depending upon the award for which you apply. If the original application for these awards shows that an endorsement can be applied that endorsement can be applied at no additional charge. OMISS accepts PayPal as an optional payment method for Awards Fees.

Here are some samples of our extensive line-up of awards...



NO CARDS REQUIRED!

The OMISS Awards process operates on the “honor system.” We assume that all amateurs wishing to pursue awards are honest and submit only actual logged contacts.

What our members have to say about OMISS...

Hello my name is Bob and I have been a member of OMISS since 1983, I spend most of my time experimenting with wire antennas. In the late 1980's I was forced to move to an antenna restricted neighborhood in Coral Springs Fl. and ended up off the air for 15 years. The first place I went to when I was able to communicate again was the OMISS net, I even forgot my lifelong number but I was welcomed back with unbelievable friendliness and hospital-ity. Other nets held no interest to me because I always felt I was intruding or taking too much time or not part of the old boy clique so it was more of a chore than fun. OMISS has given me the opportunity to make many real friends over the years while still experimenting with my latest antenna Big Idea. Of course working all states in less than 90 days during the solar mini-mum is a nice side benefit also. So please feel welcome to check in to our nets and experience amateur radio and communication at it's best .Hope to meet you on the air.

Bob Raynor N4JTE 1440

I was first licensed in the late 1970's when the band conditions were unbelievable. I could turn on my rig almost any time of the day or night and work those far off places we dream of today. Too say the least, I was hooked on the “magic” of ham radio. I met people from all over the world, and found those that I held QSO's with on a regular basis, learning about their life and different styles of living. It was an experience I will never forget. Then I accepted a job that required constant travel, and 11 moves to other parts of the country. After move number three, I felt it wasn't worth the time and effort to unpack and setup all the equipment and antennas, knowing the next move would be in the near future. Once I even made the mistake of moving into an area that banned antennas of any kind, something I will never do again. So for 15 years my ham equipment was boxed up and stored, even though it was moved from house to house with the rest of our belongings. One beautiful day the company I worked for called a special meeting, and offered a very nice early retirement package, which I accepted. I moved back to my beloved Arizona and after buying 10 acres and building a house, I unpacked my ham gear. I hastily constructed a crude dipole antenna and threw it up on the roof of my shop. It was then that I learned the band conditions had gone south, and there was not a whole lot of activity on the bands. Then one day I was twist-ing the dial and stumbled onto an OMISS net in progress. They were asking for check in's, and said you don't need to be a member, so I thought what the heck, I'll check in. I was put on the list and before long I was getting calls from all over the country. I could not believe that many people wanted to talk to me in Arizona. After I understood the concept of the worked-all-states

net, and figured out how to use Net Logger, I was hooked on ham radio again. I felt very wel-come on this net and the net controllers made it easy for me. It only took me about six weeks of checking in to work all 50 states. The last two were hard to get, but N4JTE, a very professional net controller helped me get them. There are a great many different awards available on OMISS for those that have the desire to work for them. I have tried other nets in the past, but have never encountered as many friendly and helpful hams as I have on OMISS. I can recognize many of them by voice alone, and know most of the calls of the regular check-ins by heart. The QSO bureau is free and very fast and efficient. You can search around, but in my opinion you will not find any nets better than OMISS.

N7HHC Mike

As a new ham I was welcomed into the OMISS network with open arms. Still mike shy and not knowing exactly what I should be doing, the old timers running the net were patient and understanding. They were a perfect example of how I should conduct myself on the air. As I progressed in my tech-nique and skill they gave me the opportunity to run some of the nets. I also get great encouragement from the other mem-bers. I have made what I believe are going to be long lasting radio friendships with OMISS.

KR2C, Kurt Cathart

I was a Ham for 50 years and recently moved to Vermont and all my old cards were quickly no good for WAS. After a half century I decided to go after WAS and found the OMISS net. Dorothy was net control on 40 meters and I started then. The gang was very helpful to me in achieving my goal. Great bunch of HAMS on OMISS. Great Net Controls and helpers to all on the nets.

Bob W4YFJ OMISS 5094

What OMISS means to me - As a new(14 years old) amateur radio operator I found checking into the OMISS Net to be a pleasant experience. The net controls are friendly, knowl-edgeable, patient and more than willing to help a young “newbie” learn about nets and net protocols in a manner that has been instructional and never *critical* of my operating proce-dures. That is important because on the air criticism only serves to embarrass a new operator who probably would not return to a net that operates in a manner that does make you feel welcome! The controls and the stations checked into the net have always made me feel welcome and that of course makes this operator want to return to the net and be part of it. I have found that controls on this net have been outstanding role models for me as I strive to become a good amateur radio operator. I have worked states and countries on the net and presently hold six awards plus membership and I continue to work on more awards. I look forward to a lifetime of friend-ship and fun working fellow hams on the OMISS Net!

Skylar, W9USX, OMISS # 6056