

How do I?



An occasional series

This week: OMISS NET

The O.M. International Sideband Society.

An easy way to practice on-the-air phone skills and collect your Worked All States (WAS) award.

Long time readers of this space will see there are many articles on radios, antennas, and other tips and tricks for operating. See <https://www.radioclub-carc.com/resources/> for more articles.

So, you got your General Class license and have a hankering to earn operating awards (collecting wallpaper in ham parlance). But 75% of on-the-air activity these days is FT8. What's a non digital ham, or a ham looking for a change to do?

What's that? Thundering hoof beats? Oh. It's the OMISS to the rescue.

The OMISS was founded in 1981. It has grown since I joined most of a decade ago. (I am #9277). The newest is member #15091 as of this writing.

The OMISS is built on 3 pillars:

- promote good operating practices,
- help hams collect awards, and
- exchange QSL cards.

The heart and soul are the nets. There is also an annual QSO party. The OMISS has embraced the digital community as well (Fusion C4FM, D-Star, DMR, P25, NXDN, All Star). Please note! While an OMISS facilitated HF phone contact will count towards Worked All States (WAS) and some other awards, the digital contacts will not be eligible for award purposes in nearly all cases.

The O.M. is ham speak for Old Man. This goes back to telegraph days when men were OMs and ladies were YLs. The organization has clearly changed and dropped the emphasis on OM. All are welcome!

The OMISS uses and encourages use of a program called Net Logger. Net Logger works with a variety of organizations and nets. Users can see not only who else is logged into a net, but how far down the queue you are. So if you need to do something, you can calculate you are 10 out and you may have 8 minutes to go do "whatever", without missing your turn. Net Logger was created for Net Control stations, but those who check-in are encouraged to use it as well.

The nets help you contact other states. You can request to “go direct” with someone in Alaska. If there is an Alaska station onboard you can attempt the QSO, hopefully complete a valid contact, and exchange QSL cards. The OMISS operates its own QSL bureau.

The QSL bureau is ONLY for QSOs made during nets. The OMISS requests standard #10 envelopes. If you use Net Logger, and the other operator is participating, the app will show if they have envelopes on file.

More info at [OMISS Net](#) including a listing of the net frequencies, days, times, and Net Control Stations.

OM membership is awarded once you have worked two members during OMISS nets. Once you have the two QSOs you pay a one-time \$10 fee, receive a net number and a fancy certificate.

OMISS members are a proud group and many put their membership number and the OMISS logo on their QSL cards.

The OMISS offers a variety of awards you can earn. Some awards are easy, like contacting Pennsylvania three times during nets. Other awards can provide a greater challenge and require greater effort on your part to achieve.

Catch ‘ya on the air!