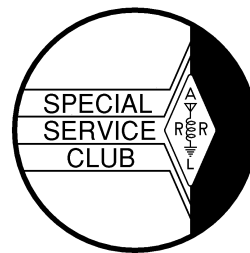




The ORC Newsletter

Official publication of the Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc. Mail all contributions to the editor, Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, 465 Beechwood Dr., Cedarburg WI 53012 (phone 262 377-6945). Permission to reprint articles published in any issue is granted provided the author and the Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter are credited.



ORC Repeaters on 146.97, 224.18 and 443.750 MHz -
Callsign W9CQO Web site: www.ozaukeeradioclub.org
Facebook: facebook.com/orcwi

Volume XXVIX

March, 2016

Number 3

From the President

de De Chuck Curran, W9KR



We had a very nice Awards Banquet this year with 32 people attending. The meal was well prepared and served and on time. It is my hope we have more people attend the 2017 Banquet, please consider attending!

Our plans for the April 30th Swapfest are proceeding with everything going smoothly so far. It will again be held at the Columbia St. Mary's Curing Center located on the north end of Fireman's Park in Cedarburg. Loren Jentz, N9ENR has been working hard and taking care of all table reservations, which are reported to be ahead of last years reservation rate. For those who may have missed it, The Wisconsin Antique Radio Club will be joining us for a combined ORC and WARCi Swap-

fest. It is hoped that we will now draw a larger crowd. Tables have been reserved at Suburban Rental in Thiensville, they will be delivering them for setup on Friday April 29th at 1:30 PM. We will need help getting the rented tables and the Curling Center tables arranged, please try and stop by to help out!

The ORC Swapfest radio's and radio parts will be organized and brought over using trailers from the barn. This is another area where some help is needed. Tom Ruhlmann will be finalizing a day and time when he gets back from Florida, but again, please keep this in mind, some help is needed!

The pending big project at my house is the radio bench and work bench repairs and re-surfacing. That means 100% of my radio equipment gets removed and carted into another part of the basement. I am using oak veneer plywood on the tops, with plans to stain it and put on several coats of clear poly sealant. I will be happy the day it is completed, but I am not looking forward to hauling all the gear back and forth, sanding and staining! Now will I actually remember where all those cables connect to?

73's

Chuck W9KR

DX'ing & Contesting

de Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT



Well first of all, sorry for missing last month. For some reason I thought I had done the column. The first thing I know, the newsletter is out and my column is missing. Must be old age, too much RF in the brain or lack of sleep from too many contests.

March is here and that means the spring equinox, where the days and nights are the same length. That is good for DX'ing. It means we have good periods of joint daylight between us and most DX locations. We don't have the absorption that happens during the summer which cuts down on polar paths on 10 and 15 meters.

The other equinox month is October. October is usually considered the best DX month of the year. Why is October better than March? Well, the upper atmosphere is usually a bit warmer in October than March (in the Northern Hemisphere) and that affects the chemical activity that is involved in ionization that causes our radio signals to be directed back to earth.

We continue to decline in the sunspot numbers. The Solar Flux, a proxy for the sunspot count, is dropping below 100 many days now. That will mean that 10 meters will have shorter and less frequent openings for the next 4-5 years. As we continue down the cycle 12 meter then 15 meter conditions will deteriorate.

There is still plenty of activity on 15 though. A few weeks ago I operated the ARRL DX CW contest. I did an all band effort, so my time was split between the bands. I managed to make 1312 contacts and 390 band countries. The money band was 15 meters where about 550 of the contacts were made. I also worked 101 countries on 15 meters. I *still* have not fixed my amp, so it was all with 100 watts.

We have had some really great DXpeditions so far this year. First of them was K5P to Palmyra Island. That was #16 (out of 341) on the most needed countries on the DXCC list for DXers in North America. Then there was VP8STI to South Sandwich Island and VP8SGI to South Georgia Island. They were #3 and #8 respectively.

There are more juicy ones to come. Heard Island is on from March 20-April 10. This one is about as far away from us as you can get. It is about as far away from everyone you can get, being a long ways southwest of Australia.

It is one of those Antarctic islands that are difficult and expensive to get to. For that reason it is #5 on the needed list. So far I have only worked in on 20 SSB and 40 CW. That was back in 1997. This one does not come around very often. More info at <http://vk0ek.org/>

Another good one this month is also an Australian territory, Cocos Keeling Island. This is being put on by a group of Norwegian hams using the call VK9CK. They will be on from March 15-March 26. They will be on 160-10 meters but are going to put special emphasis on 160 and 80 meters. This could be tough for us on those bands. They are not that far south of CQ zone 26,

which is generally considered to be the hardest one to get on 80 meters for those trying to get their 5BWAZ from around here.

Finishing up at the end of the month is a DXpedition to Juan de Nova by a group of French hams. They will be there from March 31 to April 14. Juan de Nova is an island between Africa and Madagascar. It is hard to get permission to go there so it is #6 on the DXCC needed list. I have worked it twice, once in 1990 and once in 2003. You can get more information at <http://www.juandenovadx.com/> if your French is better than mine.

So, we have had 4 activations of top 10 and 5 in the top 20 in three months! That is pretty amazing. Just one of those in a calendar year is pretty good. There are rumors of #1 being activated this year. That is North Korea, P5. There was supposed to be something happening in March or April of this year, but now that has been pushed back to late summer. Of course anything involving North Korea is pretty uncertain, so I'm not holding my breath.

There are a few big contests this month. Starting out is the ARRL DX SSB contest that starts at 0000UTC on March 5 (6:00 PM local Friday night) and runs for 48 hours. We work the world. Don't work Canadian stations, but KL7 and KL6 count as DX. DX stations give a signal report and their power level. We give out a signal report and the state. DX stations are often not that familiar with our states and log the two letter abbreviation, another layer of abstraction. So, I don't say "five nine Wisconsin". It is much better to say "five nine Whiskey India". More info at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

Next up is the Wisconsin QSO Party on Sunday March 13. It starts at 1:00PM and ends at 8:00PM, all times local. Basically you work everyone. You give out your county. Signal reports are optional. Stations outside Wisconsin give their state/province/country.

This one is a lot of fun. Most contests we are just another station out of the Mid-west US. Nothing to get excited about. But in the WIQP everyone is looking for you. You are the "rare DX". The rules are somewhat complex so check out the web page with the official rules. http://www.warac.org/wqp/wiqp_rules.htm

At the end of the month is the CQ WPX Phone contest. It starts at 0000UTC on March 26 (7:00PM Friday March 25 local – daylight savings kicks in this month so it is an hour later than ARRL DX). It runs 48 hours but single ops can only work 36 hours. Work everyone. Give out a signal report and serial number. Multipliers are the different prefixes (W9, G4, KL7, etc.). Contests like this can be a lot of fun since you can work both DX and US stations. There are a lot of stations on the air. Rule details at <http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

That wraps up March. The days are getting longer and signs of spring are appearing, but you really can't do that much outside this time of the year. Take advantage of some of the interesting stuff on the HF bands this month.

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 217: An Offer and a Request

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664
(262) 268-1949 skaplan@mcw.edu



First, the offer (for ORC and OZARES members only). I have a number of laptop hard drives that are doing no good in my “laptop hard drive” storage box, and I would like to find a home for some of them. Have an old laptop with a 20 or 40 Gb hard drive that you would like to install Linux on as an experiment? Perfect. I can give you an 80 GB SATA drive that has been wiped clean of all files and partitions and is ready to go. It even has been prepared with a fresh NTFS partition, just perfect if you want to use it for some version of Windows. Of course, a Linux installation will destroy that, unless you want to make it dual boot, which is just fine.

So, OK, I prepared those drives by pulling my own Linux hard drive and substituting each one long enough to wipe and repartition it. But, I do not currently own a laptop that uses IDE drives. If anyone has a junker that I could use to wipe and reformat IDE hard drives, I would appreciate a loan or gift. That is part of the request.

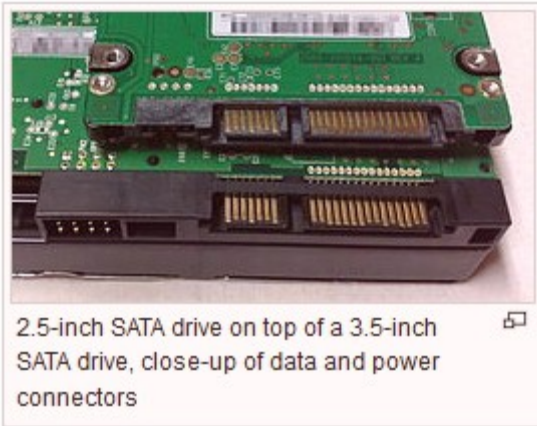
The same with non-laptop drives. I do not currently have a desktop that I can use for wiping and partitioning the bigger, non-laptop drives, and I have some waiting that are up to 1 Tb in size! If you have an unused desktop that you would like to donate, I promise to give a proper burial (recycling) when I am done with it (or I will return it if you like). Just let me know.

Well, I talked about SATA and IDE drives. Regardless of whether they are tiny laptop models or larger desktop sizes, they are different from each other in their cabling and contacts, and in the way they handle data. Look at this cable.



The drawing above shows the older IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics) cable from a desktop machine, and a laptop may have an identical cable or have a couple of extra wires for power (or the hard drive may plug directly into contact holder inside the computer). This drawing shows a 40-wire cable; 80-wire cables are more common now. Actually, these are not really called IDE cables and hard drives anymore. IDE describes that the hard drive controller is on the hard drive, but that is the case for all hard drives now. Rather, since the introduction of SATA drives (definition later) in 2003, the older IDE drives and cables began being called PATA (Parallel AT Attachment). These are definitely outdated technology now. The pins on the back of a PATA hard drive match the holes shown at the right end of the cable above.

The newer SATA hard drives are different. Take a look at the next photo.



2.5-inch SATA drive on top of a 3.5-inch SATA drive, close-up of data and power connectors

This photo shows the back of a laptop hard drive sitting on top of a desktop hard drive, both with the gold pins of the SATA (Serial ATA cable connectors) exposed. These use serial technology to send data to and from the computer, hence the use of only a few contacts (7 gold lines) on the left for data. In the older (PATA) technology, data was sent using parallel wires, hence the presence of at least 40 conductors in the cable shown previously. In serial, data marches in single file down one conductor. In parallel, the bits march side-by-side, requiring a lot more conductors.

Both of these illustrations are courtesy of Wikipedia, where much more information is available. So, give me a yell for a loan or donation. And, as always, Happy Computing!

Gary Lee Klupper, KC9EOV - SK



Mr. Gary Klupper of Saukville, formerly of Port Washington, passed away unexpectedly at Cedar Lake Health and Rehabilitation Center in West Bend. He was 51 years old. Gary was born May 30, 1964 in Port Washington, the son of Robert and Ruby (nee Krueger) Klupper. He graduated from Port Washington High School in 1983. On June 7, 1986, he was united in marriage with Kathy Dunn at St. John's Lutheran Church in Port Washington. For 16 years, he worked at Rexnord Corporation in Grafton, most recently as a supervisor. Gary was a member of River of Life Lutheran Church in Saukville, the Ozaukee Radio Club, and the Emergency Government Auxiliary Police in Cedarburg. He enjoyed radios, snowmobiling, camping and being outdoors.

Gary is survived by his wife Kathy of Saukville and his daughter Jolene Schoenfeldt of Grafton. He is further survived by his grandchildren Michelle and Brian Schoenfeldt, parents Robert and Ruby Klupper of Kiel, brother Jim (Dawn) Klupper of Little Kohler, parents-in-law Charles and Judy Dunn of Sun City, AZ, brother-in-law Edward Dunn of Phoenix, AZ, sisters-in-law Mary Lou (David) Mueller of Port Washington, Rosie (Vincent) Vaughn of Phoenix, AZ and Terri (Doroeta) Aranda of Phoenix, AZ, former son-in-law Andrew Schoenfeldt, Godmother Ann Behnke, dear friends Bob and Lori Wagner, cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. He is preceded in death by his brother-in-law Tim Dunn.

A Memorial Service celebrating Gary's life will be held on Saturday, March 12 at 3PM at Eernisse Funeral Home, 1600 W. Grand Ave in Port Washington. Rev. Azor Cigelske will officiate. The family will receive visitors at the funeral home on Saturday from 1-3PM.

Winter Tower Repair

de Gary Drasch (K9DJT)

Not sure why, but I think anyone who owns a tower, especially if they had put it up themselves, always takes a look at it as they approach or depart their residence. My time is usually in the morning when I'm out with the dog. For those of us who stay home during the winter months, we experienced some 50-60 mile an hour winds last Friday. My tower was creaking and making a few noises which were heard through the house bracket, but I really didn't make anything of it until the following morning. Lo and behold, the top twenty feet of the tower appeared to be slightly tilted. I immediately went to the base of the tower at the rear of the house and eyeballed each leg of the tower. And yup, the furthestmost west leg was out of alignment where the twenty foot section marriages to the lower twenty feet. Because I had seen this before on a friend's tower, I knew what had happened. The holes on the tower leg, where the bolts pass through, elongate. It was bad news for sure. This leg was about 3/16" longer than the other two. I didn't bother to compute the deviation from plum this caused at twenty feet above, but it was enough that I could see it. Anyone who has put up a Rohn 25G knows how difficult it is to assembled sections in the air with a gin-pole, needless to say what it was going to be like straightening out twenty feet which is overloaded. The plan I came up with was to use a come-along to plum it back up and then place turnbuckles on the two rungs leading to the



damaged leg. It surprised me of how much muscle I needed to put into the come-along to straighten it, but it worked. I placed the turnbuckles on the rungs and tighten them. For now I am viewing this as a temporary fix and need to devise a permanent solution which I can implement when the weather improves. I guess guying is a possibility.

And yes, I did climb the tower in February. It's almost becoming a habit. Last year I was up there replacing a shredded off rotor-to-mast setscrew. But then again, that's what REAL men do...they don't winter in Florida. Has anyone seen our editor of late?

73, Gary
K9DJT

Minutes– February 9th, 2016

De Zachary Yatso, KC9ZNR

Chuck Curran (W9KR), President, called the meeting to order at 1930. Introductions followed.

Announcements:

Bob S. has a new call sign, W9BOB. Gary (K9DJT) has worked South Georgia Island on 5 bands. Bill has been playing with analog and digital SSTV.

Program:

Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY) presented on basic APRS – Automatic Packet Reporting System. A wealth of information can be found at www.APRS.org.

50/50 Drawing:

The 50/50 drawing was held by Kristian (KC9TFP) and the winning ticket was #5161.

Auction:

Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) conducted the auction and numerous items were sold.

Officer Reports:

Chuck Curran (W9KR), President – The Board approved updates to Policy & Procedure 7 and Policy & Procedure 9. Motion to accept the changes to Policy & Procedure 7 was made by Nels (WA9JOB), seconded by Nancy (KC9FZK), and carried without debate. Motion to accept the changes to Policy & Procedure 9 was made by Stan K. (WB9RQR), seconded by Bill S. (W9MXQ), and carried without debate.

Kevin Steers (K9VIN), 1st VP – The ORC Awards Banquet will be held on Feb, 20, 2016. Still time to sign up.

David Carpenter Sr. (KC9REP), 2nd VP – First meeting as new 2nd Vice President.

Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY), Repeater VP – Still on reduced power on 2m; a new amplifier is needed. 220 and 440 working fine.

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary – Motion to accept January minutes was made by Stan K. (WB9RQR), seconded by Art D. (AC9CD), and carried without debate.

Dave Barrow (N9UNR), Treasurer – motion to accept Treasurer's report was made by Stan K. (WB9RQR), seconded by Art D. (AC9CD), and carried without debate.

Committee Reports:

N/A.

Old Business:

N/A.

New Business:

We are confirmed for the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend event at the Kevich Light in Grafton. This year's event will be held Aug 20-21.

Many advanced orders have already been placed for the April 30 Cedarburg Spring Swapfest / WARC event, held at the Columbia St. Mary's Center in Cedarburg.

Adjournment:

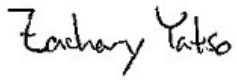
Stan (WB9RQR) made the motion to adjourn at 2053. The motion was seconded by Nels (WA9JOB) and the motion carried.

Attendance:

There were 37 members present and 1 guests.

A copy of the attendance sheet is available upon request in PDF format. Please contact Zach Yatso via email at: kc9zn-r@arrl.net for a copy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Yatso". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Zachary Yatso, KC9ZNR
Secretary

AGENDA

March 9th, 2016

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Chuck Curran (W9KR)
3. Introductions.
4. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
5. Program:
6. 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
7. Fellowship Break
8. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
9. Presidents Report – Chuck Curran (W9KR)
10. 1st VP Report – Kevin Steers (K9VIN), First Vice-President
11. 2nd VP Report – David Carpenter, Sr., KC9REP
12. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY
13. Acceptance of Minutes : Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary
14. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow, N9UNR
15. Committee reports.
16. Other:
17. OLD BUSINESS
18. NEW BUSINESS
19. Adjournment to ?

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The ORC Newsletter

465 Beechwood Drive
Cedarburg WI* 53012

First Class

Next ORC Meeting

Grafton Senior Citizens Center

1665 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, August 8th

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting