



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

Volume XXVIV

September, 2010

Number 9

From the President

De Bill Howe II (KA9WRL)

I was born during WWII in September of 1943 down in Macon Georgia. Although I didn't get my Ham license until 44 years later, I've always had an interest in radio.

I built an AM Transmitter in my basement when I was in Junior High School up in Antigo, Wisconsin. I don't remember where I got the schematic, but the parts were readily available to me as I worked in a local radio repair shop every afternoon after school.

It started as a low power, no license required project, but soon grew to several hundred watts after building a rather large RF Amplifier. The antenna was a yagi, of sorts, perched atop my Mother's 2-story house. Apparently, I didn't even think about a license after the "upgrade".

My grandfather built a beautiful workbench out of select hardwoods, stacked vertically on a sturdy frame, in the corner of our basement. This was ideal for my radio station. I proceeded to re-route power from an overhead outlet near the coal bin to just above the bench where I fabricated a fuse box out of an old cigar box. Not exactly code, but it worked.

My next brilliant move was to cut a hole in the top of the workbench so that my turntable would sit flush next to the transmitter. That was the source of my music, my sister's 45's and LP's plus my Mother's old 78's.

The microphone was an RCA-77 look-a-like, manufactured by Radio Shack. Actually, there were several companies that made those microphones, all crystal types. Would you believe I still have that mic? I also have many of the

still have that mic? I also have many of the other versions as well . . . but I digress.



The RCA-77 look-alike from Radio Shack

I took requests from all of the neighbors and played music into the night, with clever intros and, what I considered, hilarious jokes. My frequency of choice was somewhere close to 900 KC, which, coincidentally, was the frequency of WATK-AM on the North side of Antigo. Another brilliant decision on my part!

All went well with WGH Radio throughout many winter months, until rumblings of interference with WATK Radio, my competitor on the North side. I couldn't change my operating frequency much, so I pretty much ignored the threats and considered taking on sponsors so I could buy more goodies to add to the "station".

Some of you may have heard what happened to WGH Radio. The equipment is probably still sitting in a government warehouse somewhere in Chicago, I suspect. Two well-dressed gentlemen from the windy city with a wallet full of FCC identification offered to take it off my hands and store it for me while I spend time in some kind of protective custody!

Somehow, I got off clean and never had to spend any time away from home . . . but I never saw my transmitter or turntable again, plus my Grandfather made me patch the hole in that workbench.

Today the only thing left of WGH Radio is my little RCA-77 look-a-like Radio Shack crystal mic and a whole warehouse full of great memories.

Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

I had an interesting conversation with Tom, W9IPR, a few days ago about vintage ham transmitters and receivers. He buys the old relics and refurbishes them. I, too, buy old relics, but handle them in a little different way. I put them on a shelf and let them gather dust and rust. I have yet to follow through on my intent to refurbish even one of them. I have, however, satisfied my primary goal of acquiring one of every model of receiver that I've ever owned as a ham. Some work, but most don't, and that's not likely to change in the future. Now, if I could acquire a Hallicrafters SX-28 and a Hammarlund Super Pro, both of which I used while in the USAAF a long time ago, I'd be satisfied.

That conversation with Tom did not relate directly to contesting as we know it today. But it did serve as memory jogger about how contesting worked in "the good old days". I built my first homebrew transmitter back in 1949, and put it to work in contesting in 1950. It was a 20 watt crystal controlled rig, 80 thru 10 meters, CW only. And, as most others did at that time, I had a pocket full of crystals, which I would lay out in front of the transmitter and plug in the one that came closest to the frequency that I wanted to transmit on. Now that will sound a bit primitive to any of you who are even a little bit into contesting using modern day transceivers, but that was the way it was for those of us who didn't have a VFO for one reason or another. You all know that a modern day contester can sit on a frequency for hours at a time calling CQ FD (or CQ whatever the contest might be), and that stations will jump onto his frequency and

answer him. And, if that contester chooses to operate S & P (search & pounce); all he has to do is tune in the other station's signal and answer his CQ. Simple, isn't it? Sure, but that's not the way it worked for most of us in 1950.

Typically I would select a crystal near the bottom of the band and call CQ a few times, then sign and tune the receiver up and down about 5-10 KC from my transmit frequency looking for stations who might be calling me. And when I had worked the frequency "dry", I would select another crystal 10 or so KC higher in the band and repeat the process. This would continue until I figured that I had worked all the S&P stations on the band, and then I would become an S&P guy. I would tune the receiver to a CQ ing station and then select a transmit crystal as near his frequency as I could, and call him. These procedures were clumsy and not very productive, but it was all a lot of us had at the time. I built my first VFO the next year and plugged it into the transmitter crystal socket. And so ends this lesson in PRIMITIVE CONTESTING 101.

Tom said he was planning to set up a refurbished transmitter and receiver as a separate station in his shack, and he probably will, but I doubt he will do much contesting with it.

September marks the beginning of the fall contesting season. Here are a few you might want to consider:

Sept.11

ARRL SEPT. VHF QSO PARTY—
Phone, CW and Digital—Rules at
www.arrl.org/contests.

Sept. 12

NORTH AMERICAN SPRINT—CW—
Rules at www.ncjweb.com.

Sept. 19

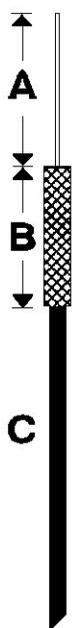
NORTH AMERICAN SPRINT-PHONE—
Rules at www.ncjweb.com.

Have fun contesting. Bob, W9LO

“No Materials” Antenna

De Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)

Adapted and updated from a March 1998 OZARES Newsletter article by Tom Oehler, W9LNL.



Here is a quick and easy antenna for 2 meters or 440 MHz that requires no materials other than the coax used to feed it! C in the drawing is any coax, RG-58, RG-8 or even RG-59 (75-ohm TV coax). B is the inverted braid of the coax, while A is the center conductor. The insulation of the center conductor should be left on for rigidity and protection.

First, here are the approximate dimensions of both A and B (these two sections are identical length):

FREQ (MHz)	LENGTH (inches)
145	20.5
146	20
147	19.5
148	19
443.525	6.5

Let us suppose you wanted to make one of these for use at the OZARES transmit frequency (147.93 MHz) and at the ORC transmit frequency (146.37 MHz). The split between these would be 147.15 MHz, but 147 MHz is certainly a good compromise. Therefore, both sections A and B should be 19.5 inches long.

To build it, cut the plastic outer insulation off of at least 30 inches of the coax. The braid will shorten considerably when you expand it, so you will need this length to work with. Expand the diameter of the braided shield by pushing it back toward the insulation cut, then invert it, just as you would turn the finger of a glove inside out. This is easy to do with some coax, and difficult with others. If you have difficulty, cut it off,

work it over the coax insulation and solder it in place where A and B meet. In any case, when the braid is in place, work it down tightly on the insulation by gently stretching it and rolling it with your hands. Now, carefully trim it so that it extends 19.5 inches down from the point where A and B meet. You may find it useful to tape it in place at the end to prevent it from shortening after you trim it. Similarly, trim the center conductor so that it extends up 19.5 inches from where A and B meet. Before trimming the center conductor, you might want to form the tip into a tiny loop (and solder it) so that you can hang the antenna up with string, nylon fishing line or other non-conductive material. Don't forget to count the tiny loop as part of the length. That's it! If you are picky and have an SWR checker, trim 1/16 inch off both the center conductor and braid until the SWR goes down to a usable figure. If you don't have a meter, make it 19.5 inches and call it close enough. Make C any length you want, and put a connector of your choice on the end.

I do have an MFJ 259B Antenna Analyzer, and just completed making up the antenna (10Aug10) using RG-59 coax. This white-jacketed TV stuff was not very high quality, with perhaps 75% shielding, but it was clean, new cable. After trimming just a bit, A and B were 19-3/8 inches. Here are the results:

Freq	SWR	Freq	SWR
145	1.6		440	1.1
145.5	1.7		440.5	1.0
146	1.5		441	1.1
146.5	1.4		441.5	1.2
147	1.4		442	1.4
147.5	1.5		442.5	1.5
148	1.5		443	1.7
148.5	1.6		443.5	1.7
149	1.7		444	2.1

Clearly usable for both VHF and UHF, with SWRs at or below 1.5:1 on 2-meters and about

1.7:1 on 440 for both the OZARES and ORC frequencies. Not bad for a hunk of coax.

Want some of that TV cable to experiment with? I have a big spool ... just let WB9RQR know how many feet you would like.

Corn Roast/Boil 2010

De AA9XK

On August 21 many members took advantage of the good weather, free food and drink provided by the Club to join other members at the Lion's Shelter in Port Washington for the annual ORC "Corn Roast" picnic.

In addition to the food and drink, Tom Murtaugh took pictures of new members and took the pictures you see in this issue. Ed Rate supplied the freshest corn in all of Ozaukee County, Ed Frac and Tom Nawrot lugged the old cooker, the beverages, and grills from the shed. Tom Ruhlmann supplied the firewood, and Cindy Douglas bought the food, Julia Nawrot picked up flowers from Port's Saturday morning farmers market, flower vases from St. Vincent DePaul and covered the tables in new tablecloths.



Cindy Douglas (KA9PZG) kept a close eye on the boiling corn to assure it was "just right"



The picnic tables were really quite elegant with cloths and flowers as provided by Julia (KB9WBQ).



Mike Yuhas (AB9ON) demonstrated the finesse required in the bean bag toss to his daughter and Sue Albrinck (wife of K9QLP)



It was truly a family event and Patrick Sullivan's kids were having a great time judging from their smiles.

Again, we operated a W9CQO special event radio station and made 48 casual contacts for only 3 or 4 hours of operation. We used an Outbacker and a tri-band vertical. Among the 48 contacts, we logged six other lighthouses or ham members of the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS)



Bill Howe and Tom Nawrot among others had fun working other lighthouse stations.

We talked up the fact that ARLHS USA 652, otherwise known as Port Washington's 1860 Light station, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. We drew a couple of outsiders over to the station to see what we were doing.

Loren Jentz, Tom Murtaugh, and Bill Howe (also LEFROG members) displayed their new club banner too, and the ORC picked up another new member.



As with all good things they come to an end and then it's time for clean-up. Stan (WB9RQR) is making sure the coals are extinguished before reloading the kettle for another year of storage.

ORC Fall Swapfest

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

Don't forget the ORC Fall Swapfest at Fireman's Park in Cedarburg on Sept. 11. We are still looking for the following assistance:

We had a committee meeting August 16th and are still looking for the following volunteers:

Admissions (ticket sales at gate) - have 3 need 5 more to assist Jim Albrinck

Talk-in station - need 1 more to relieve Leon

Grounds - need 2 to assist Jim Albrinck at opening and closing

Parking - need 5 more to assist Stan directing traffic to vendors and buyers areas

If we can fill all the above positions then everyone will get a chance to also circulate and enjoy the swapfest so no one is overworked. It's a great way for newer members to meet the group. It's fun, let's all participate and have a good time the morning of

Sept 11, 2010. Call me, e-mail me or see me at the meeting to volunteer.

Jon Sanfilippo (WW9JON)

Jon spent his early years in Milwaukee and after moving to Silver Lake he graduated from West Bend High School in 1968. It was in high school that Jon became interested in radio but at that time it was citizens band radio. It all started with a CB walkie-talkie and then he built his own 5 watt base station.

He tried to learn CW so that he could take his novice ham test but couldn't seem to get the hang of it. So the HAM radio interest gave in to other interests at the time.

Jon then went to U of WI in Washington County for an associate degree and this was followed by a Bachelors and a Masters degree in Education at U of WI in Milwaukee. Jon spent the next 3 years teaching 5th grade at St Francis Cabrini in West Bend. While there he got interested in politics and was elected Clerk of Court for Washington County.

During his 13 year tenor as Washington County Clerk of Court Jon became interested in law and earned his law degree from Marquette in 1988. He practiced law for 5 years and was then appointed Chief Deputy of Milwaukee County Courts. Currently Jon is the Clerk of Court for the US District Court for SE Wisconsin.

Jon had pretty much given up on a HAM license due to the code requirement when he heard a public radio story this spring about an 80 or 90 year old woman who passed her ham radio test. In that story he found out that the rules had changed and you did not need to pass a Morris Code test to get a Tech license. Right then he decided he was going to get a book from AES and work at passing the test. In April he passed the Tech test and in May he passed the General test and now has the call sign of AA9JON.

Since then he has done a lot of research on the Internet and has acquired a Yaesu FT-2000, DMU-2000, Palstar AT2K tuner and a ZeroFive 30 ft Flagpole antenna for 10 thru 80 meter. He is interested in DX'ing and has a desire to talk to hams in Europe (especially in his heritage country of Italy).

Jon lives just above Cedar Lake in Slinger and after removing a huge willow tree in the front yard has installed a beautiful Zero Five flag pole antenna complete with American and Italian flags.



Jon is quite proud of his new flagpole antenna and his wife is pleased to get rid of the willow tree.

I went to Jon's home to get familiar with the FT-2000 and while there Jon made his first contacts on the HAM bands. It was the Ohio QSO contest and there were plenty of stations to contact and check out the new station and antenna.



Jon is quite pleased to be making his first amateur radio contacts on his FT-2000 during the Ohio QSO Party.

Welcome to the ORC and amateur radio Jon. It's a lifelong activity that continues to offer new horizons.

Upcoming Events

September

11th - ORC "Ham & Hobby" Swapfest
11th thru 13th ARRL VHF QSO Party
18th - Peoria, IL Hamfest
25th - Belvidere, IL Hamfest

October

16th thru 17th - J.O.T.A. (ORC/LeFrog at Pioneer Village)

November

6th thru 8th - ARRL CW Sweepstakes
20th thru 22nd - ARRL Phone Sweepstakes

December

3rd thru 5th - ARRL 160 Meter Contest

Club Static

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

Dave Barrows (N9UNR) reports that during August we gained four new members:

Dave Milke, WB9EZG
Jon Sanfilippo, WW9JON
Tom Tretheway, KC9ONY
Antonio Bustamante

Congratulations to Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT) on your terrific 2nd place in Wisconsin in the 2010 WI QSO Party. The results are available at:

<http://www.warac.org/wqp/2010/10results.pdf>

After the early breakfast at Prime Ministers I drove to Racine to distribute ORC Fall Swapfest flyers at the Racine Megacycles free annual Swapfest. It is free to vendors and buyers and held in a parking lot at the Fireman's Park. They host a free Swapfest as a service to the HAM community. I would estimate there were about 35 vendors there and all were having a good time trading and kibitzing. I handed out about 100 flyers and to my surprise I found and bought a PM-23 speaker that matches my SX-28. I also bought a Hallicrafters "keyer" which matches my HT-32A and which I have since

made operational. It was a really good time and I will be going again next year.



Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT) was again a vendor at The Racine Megacycle's Swapfest at Fireman's park in Racine. President Bill (KA9WRL), Tom and Loran were also there enjoying a beautiful day.

Richard "Rich" Willette, W9GNK has died. Rich was a former member of the ORC when his call was WD9GNK. Rich worked at Goodwill in Milwaukee before moving to Rhinelander in the late 80's, or so. Rich used to live on Highland Drive in Grafton when he lived here. Every so often Rich would come down here for a visit, and put out a call on the 146.97 repeater. Not many people knew him anymore, but I always was happy to hear him and have a QSO. - 73, Nels....

Tips and Tools

I found a perfect paint color match for my SX-28 speaker housing using a flat primer. There are quite a variety of grays and blacks available. It was black with a touch of blue. However, when applied to the speaker housing which had a textured finish, the paint was so flat it hid the texture of the original paint. It was just too flat so I resorted to a can of semi gloss black. Not quite original but looks good. Also, not all silver colors are the same but I was able to select from about 6 shades to get a near perfect match for the speaker grill. Take the item with you to the hardware/paint store and there is a better chance of a near perfect match.

High SWR?

While operating with the vertical on the ORC 2 meter net I noted low power (10 watt) output and high SWR. I switched to the beam and had full 50 watt output and normal SWR. I concluded that there had probably been a nearby lightning strike and it blew the gas tube in my lightning arrester. But why only one out of the several?



The lightning arresters are fed through a grounded aluminum angle iron for secure protection.

My VHF/UHF antenna all feed through lightning arresters used as bulkhead connectors through a grounded aluminum angle iron. Upon inspection I found that water had flowed down the co-ax and into the 2 meter vertical cable connector thus shorting it out and causing the high SWR.

Upon drying out and reassembling the connector/arrester a test verified that water ingress was the problem and all was now well. However, I did inspect the other four connectors (which were dry) and then proceeded to protect them

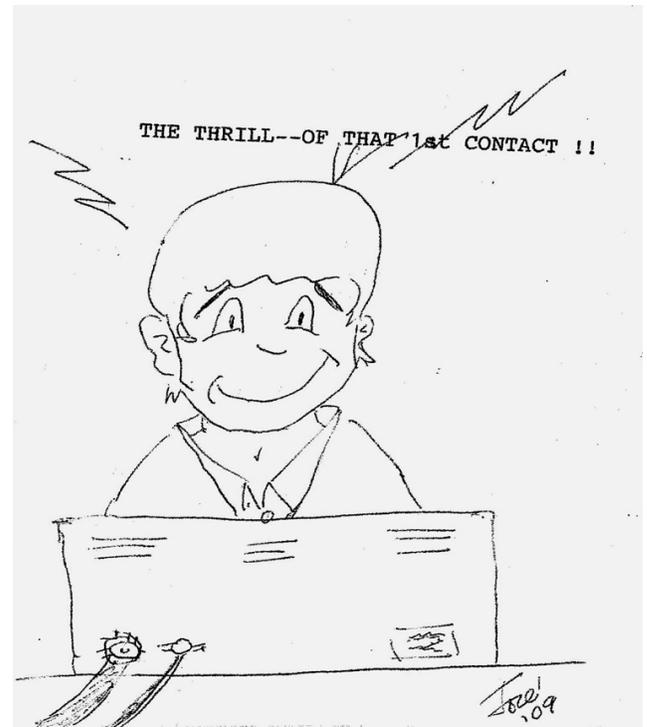
all with a wrap of caulk tape. Also, I made sure there was a drip loop in all the cables above the connectors.

Note in the second photo that the co-ax cables are all identified with colored tie-wraps.



All the connectors are now protected with a drip loop in the co-ax and a caulk tape wrap to prevent any water ingress.

The cables going into the shack are disconnected when we are traveling and color coding makes reconnecting much easier.



Do you remember that first contact?

Minutes— Aug. 11th, 2010

De Patrick Sullivan (KC9LRK)

Bill Howe, KA9WRL called tonight's meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Introduction of all present followed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR Reported on the ORC Tuesday night net activity.

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR Presented an Ozares no material coaxial antenna for 2 meter and 440. Look for a complete report on this antenna in this or the coming news letter.

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB Acknowledged and welcomed three new members David Milke WB9EGZ, Antony Bustamante and Jon Sanfilippo WW9JON.

Ed Frac, AA9WW Announced that ORC hats are available for \$15 including embroidering, please contact Ed for more information.

Mark Tellier, AB9CD has offered to conduct a Ham radio licenses class for ORC members and non members. Please contact Mark if you are interested or know of someone who is interested.

PROGRAM: None

50/50 RAFFLE RESULTS:

Ed Frac, AA9WW won the 50/50 raffle this evening.

AUCTION

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR and Jon Gilmore, KB9RHZ ran the auction. Some of the items acquired by bidders included light bulbs, a New Black & Decker mouse sander, a vacuum tube, 13 computer fans, a project box, a HT pouch, a magazine rack, a box of electronic components, a transmitter in a tuna tin, fireplace matches, a Net gear wireless networking card, a power supply, an eight port router, a small bell, head phones, a computer fan with sparkly lights, a radar detector, an audio splitter, a wire spool and a lamp with a magnifying lens.

MINUTES:

Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR motion to accept the minutes as written with the correction as submitted by Leon Rediske, K9GCF. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR seconded the motion. A 100% vote to accept then followed.

The July minutes have been corrected as follows.

Field Day, Leon Rediske K9GCF. With a large debt of gratitude, Nancy Stecker KC9FZK, Jane Rediske KB9SYI and Stan Kaplan WB9RQR were presented with a plaque elevating their status to "Exalted Chef's". This plaque recognizes their efforts to prepare the food for the Field Day weekend.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was presented by Nels Harvey, WA9JOB. Ed Seigworth AA9GT motioned to accept the treasurer's report subject to audit. Jon Gilmore KB9RHZ seconded the motion and it was followed by a 100% vote in favor.

REPEATER REPORT:

Mark Tellier AB9CD reported that the repeaters are working fine, with no reported issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership Committee, David Barrow N9UNR. An addendum to the roaster will be published and distributed via e-mail with hard copies available at the next meeting.

Corn Roast and Light House event, Tom Nawrot AA9XK. This event was held on August 21, 2010 in Upper Lake Park in Port Washington.

September Swapfest, Tom Ruhlmann W9IPR. The September Swapfest will be on September 11, 2010 at Fireman's Park in Cedarburg. The committee meeting for this Swapfest was held on August 16th.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Kent Christiansen, N9WH motioned for adjournment; it was seconded by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR and a majority vote in favor followed.

MEMBERS ATTENDING TONIGHT'S MEETING:

Attending tonight's meeting were 2 guests and 31 members. Ed Rate AA9W, Mark Tellier AB9CD, Leon Rediske K9GCF, Jim Albrinck K9QLP, Bill Howe KA9WRL, Mark Fielkow KB9PXE, Patrick Sullivan KC9LRK, Todd Fast N9DRY, David Barrow N9UNR, Kent Christiansen N9WH, Ken Boston W9GA, Tom Ruhlmann W9IPR, Ray Totzke W9KHH, Tom Murtaugh W9VBQ, Gary Sutcliffe W9XT, Nels Harvey WA9JOB, Jeff Alper WB9PZD, Stan Kaplan WB9RQR, Tom Nawrot AA9XK, Cindy Douglas KA9PZG, Julia Nawrot KB9WBQ, Brian Skrentny N9LOO, Ed Seigworth AA9GT, Ed Frac AA9WW, Jon Gilmore KB9RHZ, Art Davidson

KC9PXR, Chuck Curran W9POU, Joe Holly AA9HR,
Dave Milke WB9EGZ, Paul Given N9PG, Antony
Bustamante and guests David L. Kuester KC9RWJ
and James Douglas III AB9VH.

AGENDA

Sept. 8, 2010

1. Call to order – Bill Howe (KA9WRL)
 2. Introductions.
 3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
 4. Program:
 5. Fellowship Break
 6. Auction.
 7. Acceptance of Minutes as printed.
-
8. Treasurer's report – Nels (WA9JOB).
 9. Repeater report – Mark Tellier (AB9CD)
 10. Committee reports.
Sept. 11 Swapfest –
Other -
 11. OLD BUSINESS
 12. NEW BUSINESS
 13. 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, Sept. 8th

7:30 PM