



# 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  
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## From the President

*de Chuck Curran, W9KR*



I find it hard to accept we have already reached December of 2016, another year behind us. Looking back on 2016, I am very Thankful to the ORC Club Members who have done so much to make this a good year.

We have had a fine Awards Banquet last February, with another one scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> of 2017. Do your best to set that date aside and plan on attending in 2017. The 2016 Swapfest was also a success, the people from the Antique Radio Club have already contacted me and they will be back. That helped to make our Spring Swapfest a success, and word is getting around the Amateur community on what a great facility we have now at the Columbia St Mary's Curling Rink. I have already emailed Mary Sheffield and she is holding the rink for our use for 2017.

I feel that our Field Day turned out very well, with good participation by many of the club members. I have already contacted the Town of Cedarburg and we will again be using the Pleasant Valley Nature Park for the 2017 Field Day event. They won't have pricing information for resident rental fees until January, but our name is already on the "Reserved For" List.

Both the August Corn Roast and the Fall Swapfest were a success too. Lots of solid help was available, with just a bit of arm twisting!

Please keep in mind that our club elections are coming up. If you have an interest in serving as a club officer, please contact Ken Boston, W9GA directly

I would like to express my appreciation to all the 2016 club officers and people who filled the appointed positions. Without your contributions, it would have been a difficult year. Another group we need to thank are the folks that provided our meeting program presentations. I always enjoy that and I believe the rest of the club does too!

Thanks very much to all the ORC people who have made a contribution this year, and also to those planning to help in 2017!!

73's to All, Chuck W9KR

# DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



There are a huge number of activities and interests within the larger hobby of ham radio. As the title of this column indicates, my primary operating interests are contesting and DXing.

From time to time is not a bad idea to give something else a try for change of pace. A few weeks ago I started an activity I did about 5 years ago and had a great time. I decided to do it again this year. This is the QRP Fox Hunts.

These are not your typical fox hunts where someone goes out somewhere hidden and transmits periodically on 2M and the hounds use direction finding techniques to find the "fox". Each night there are two designated "foxes". The idea is you, as the "hound", try to contact the foxes. Everyone runs 5 watts or less. You need to find the fox who will be within +/- 10 KHz of the QRP frequency for that band. Because there are so many hounds, they typically operate split.

This is a weekly event. Actually, there are two separate events, one on 40 meters on Tuesday evening and one on 80 meters on Thursday night. You exchange signal report, state, name and power output. Instead of the usual 599 in contests the usual report is 559.

It is challenging doing it QRP. The first two weeks I could only work one of the foxes on 40 each night. It is not always the more distant stations that are the hardest to work. Often the closer stations are in the skip zone where the signals go over their heads.

You can go to the web site (<http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org>) for complete rules and see the schedules for the "foxes" for the night.

You don't need a QRP rig to operate at 5 watts. Many rigs can be turned down to low power levels. I can go into the FT-1000MP menu and change a setting for 10W output max. I then use an external watt meter to set the drive at 5W. The rig's display bar graph for power is not very accurate.

Now back to your regularly scheduled column. The fall contest season winds down this month. CQWW CW held during the Thanksgiving weekend was painful with the poor propagation stand point. I decided to try something different, a single band low power (100 watts) 20-meter single band. I ended up with 514 QSOs, 120 countries and 32 zones. I frequently do single band, but never did 20 meters. I have a lot to learn about propagation on that band!

The ARRL 160 Meter contest is December 4-6. That is 4:00 PM local Friday until 10:00 AM Sunday morning. The strange start times are to get two full nights in. Basically, you work everyone (CW only) and send signal report and state. This will probably be over by the time the newsletter comes out, but if not the rules can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>. Note that you can't use packet spotting on this one.

The following weekend you turn the band switch to the other end. That is for the ARRL 10 Meter contest. This starts at 6:00 local Friday December 9 (0000UTC Dec 10) and runs for 48 hours. Again, you work everyone and send signal report and state. You can work CW, SSB or both modes, plus the various power levels. This has been my favorite contest for a long time. It is

great during the top of the sunspot cycle. Unfortunately, we are nowhere near that, but are heading fast towards the bottom. This means the DX will be limited to South America and some Africa and South Pacific.

Stateside will depend on sporadic E propagation (Es) which can happen anytime. Or not at all. You just should be in the chair and be ready to go when it happens. If we get a good Es opening it can be a blast. One year near the bottom of the sunspot cycle we had a great Es opening. I had my best hour contesting ever, making almost 250 contacts in an hour.

If you are quick, you can also make contacts by meteor scatter. The Gemini's meteor shows peaks around the 10 Meter contest. Often there will be 10 seconds or so ionization good enough to reflect the signals. If you listen you might hear a short "ping" where you might hear just a letter of a call sign or even a single syllable. Eventually one will happen that is long enough to get an exchange through. Again, you have to be fast. Don't waste time saying stuff like "QSL your 59 Kentucky" or "Please copy 59 Wisconsin". Of course, you should not waste time saying stuff like that in any contest, but with meteor scatter it is fatal. Keep it to the minimum: "W1ABC 59 Wisconsin". One thing to remember about the 10 Meter contest is that Technician class has phone privileges on this band. If you have never operated an HF contest this may be your best one to try.

The last big contest is the Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge a 160 meter CW contest. In the last few years it has become one of my favorites. This contest is a bit different. Most contests score by taking the number of QSOs, possibly with several points per QSO multiplied by the number of state, grid squares, country or some other geographical district. You simply get points based on the distance of the QSO. A QSO with a station in Europe or South Pacific is worth a lot more than one with Minnesota. You send your grid square (signal report optional) and the logging program will calculate the points. If you paper log the log sponsor will do the calculation for you.

In many contests, you get more points per contact if you operate low or QRP power. In the TBDC you also get more points if the *other* station is low power or QRP. The thinking here is that the station working the lower power station also must work harder to make the QSO. Your score is simple the sum of all your QSO points.

The log scorers check your log against the stations you worked. If the station you worked sent in their log and were low or QRP, they give you additional points. When you send your logs in you don't know your score exactly. You can go to the web site every day or so and watch your score go up, and perhaps your standing.

Normally the Stew happens on the weekend between Christmas and New Year's. Because the holidays fall on a weekend this year it the week before, December 17 & 18. You can only work 14 hours, so plan on starting around sunset on Saturday. The Stew Perry is sort of a wacky contest with some wacky rules so it is best to review the rules at <http://www.kkn.net/stew/stew.rules.txt> Keeping the wacky theme; they have a lot of wacky awards you can win. Check them out at <http://www.kkn.net/stew/plaques.txt>

Big DXpeditions are not common in December, but there are usually a lot of smaller ones put on by hams vacationing over the holidays. The islands in the Caribbean are favorite spots. They have warm weather, easy to get to, warm weather, easy to get licenses, and have warm weather. That makes them popular destinations. There are also places for rent that already have a station. You just show up! Operation usually happens around other activities so it is just best to get on and see if one shows up.

One interesting tidbit is Prince Edward and Marion Islands will be activated. These are territorial islands of South African. They are nature reserves and not often activated. The last time I worked it was 1989. ZS1BCE will be stationed there starting around the end of the year for 17 months. The call sign is ZS8X and SSB and digital modes will be used.

Enjoy the holidays with your family, but if time allows, spend a little time on the radio.

## THE COMPUTER CORNER

### ***No. 226: A Laptop Is Not a Small Desktop!***

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664  
(262) 268-1949 [wb9rqr@att.net](mailto:wb9rqr@att.net)

Note my current email address above. Please be sure your address book reflects this.



That title is interesting! We use laptops to take the place of desktops all the time. They are especially useful in ham emergency communications because they are smaller, more portable, and they work even whenever the power mains are down (at least for a while) because they have built in batteries. Hook a laptop to your Winlink station and you are on-the-air even when the power fails. The same portability and battery power features make them valuable for general ham or non-ham applications. But are they different from desktops? Yep. Now, I will admit up front that some of the descriptions below are generalizations, but in general, the descriptions are true.

**LAPTOPS** (and smart phones, tablets, and embedded devices like your new refrigerator) mainly use a computer architecture called **RISC**, standing for **Reduced Instruction Set Computing** in their chips. The idea of RISC is that the hardware uses a *simpler set of instructions* that can be completed using *fewer microprocessor cycles per instruction*. In other words, lean and mean. RISC chips need fewer transistors than the next type to be described.

**RISC** architecture was developed in the 1980s, and was implemented back then on a bunch of types whose names would be recognized only by old guys like me. On the other hand, RISC processors are also used in modern supercomputers such as the fastest in the world in 2011 (the "K"), the second fastest in 2012 (Sequoia) and the third fastest in 2013. So, RISC is not just ancient history, even in huge, powerful computers. And there are a lot of laptops out there so it is still very widely used.

By contrast, most **DESKTOPS** use **CISC** processors. **CISC** stands for **Complex Instruction Set Computing**. The architecture of these chips lets a single instruction execute several steps. The command MULT will multiply two numbers with just the single command. By contrast, a RISC chip needs to load one number, then the other, then multiply them, then store the result somewhere. That's four steps.

Older CISC systems were the IBM System/360 and PDP-11 computers and chips labeled the Motorola 6800, 6809, 68000 families and the Zilog Z80, Z8, Z8000 and others. Does anyone but me recognize these ancient names? The Intel x86 is the main CISC processor today. Its

goal is to complete a task in as few commands as possible. This takes more transistors, and more transistors are a characteristic of these processors.

The Apple Power Macintosh used RISC-based chips, and Windows NT was RISC-compatible. Today, RISC-based chips dominate low-end and mobile systems. Apple's i-Phone and i-Pad, Microsoft Windows Phone, Nintendo Game Boy, and Android-based systems are a few examples. On the other hand, Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 were designed for CISC processors and most desktops today are designed around CISC processors.

But the debate over which concept (RISC or CISC) is better continues to this day. Right now, it is said that RISC is better where less dependability on hardware (and more dependability on software) is desired and *cheap production* is the aim (most LAPTOP chip sets). CISC is better for *high performance*, less dependence on software and more dependence on hardware (most DESKTOP chip sets).

Now that I have divided the computer world so neatly, let's put it back together! Many of the chips used in computers since 2000 employ architectures that combine the RISC and CISC philosophies to some degree, as an attempt to combine the best of both worlds. It is not perfect yet, but they are still trying. Happy Computing!

## Upcoming Events

Dues are due – bring your check for \$15 to the December Meeting

Elections at the January Meeting

Waukesha Swapfest in January, 2017

Awards Banquet in February, 2017

## The Sick List

From time to time we are all a bit down and could use a personal visit, phone call or email of encouragement. In the future, we will try to keep you informed of those members who are “off frequency” for awhile.

Ron Yokes, one of ORC senior members, is at the Lincoln Village in Port Washington. The info is below.

Ron Yokes W9BCK  
Lincoln Village  
1300 West Lincoln Ave  
Port Washington, WI 53074

Villages Phone: 1-262-268-1300 (NOTE: This is reception desk only. They can tell you if Ron is in his room or not. Call before you visit. (He has meals, Physical Therapy, and doctor's appointments away from his room).

Ron's e-mail is: [wninebck@gmail.com](mailto:wninebck@gmail.com) Ron has trouble sending e-mails, but his family will assist him in reading them and he does enjoy hearing from people.

73 de Jim K9QLP

## Wanted and Not Wanted

This column is about equipment and not people. If you need an item or have something for sale or the taking, send a note to me at [teruhmann@wi.rr.com](mailto:teruhmann@wi.rr.com) and we will post it here.



## Ozaukee Radio Club November Meeting Minutes

Gary L. Drasch (K9DJT) – Secretary Pro tem

November 9, 2016

President Chuck Curran, W9KR, called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

### Announcements/Show-and-Tell:

- Vic, WT9Q, showed an old weather station which he replaced at his QTH v works.
- Dave, KC9REP, showed a new Baofeng DMR handheld radio he purchased. He purchased a pair for \$130.
- Stan, WB9RQR, mentioned that he needed a program speaker for December. He also noted that Art, AC9CD, was elected as “Top EC” (Emergency Coordinator) within Wisconsin ARES. Art received applause from everyone.
- Tom, W9IPR, said he had a 20KW generator with an automatic transfer switch installed at his QTH.
- Dave, N9UNR, reported that a former Cedarburg police officer, Sean R. Schenk, KC9ZQH, became a silent key November 3, 2016.
- Gary, K9DJT, mentioned that he has an FT-950 for sale.
- Pat, W9JI, commented that there is a TV show about Mars which has a segment about young people involved with ham radio. Said it was neat.
- Kenny, KK4HAO, a visitor from North Carolina commented on his involvement with ham radio and the Coast Guard during hurricane Matthew. They rescued 400+ people.
- Chuck, W9KR, mentioned that he and his wife Linda purchased a 1967 VW bug. Linda grew up in Germany and learned how to drive on one just like it.

### Program:

Stan, WB9RQR, introduced Naomi, KC9YES, OZARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator. She is also the Wisconsin Regional Disaster Mental Health Lead with the American Red Cross. She explained the “Safe and Well” program and how FLdigi plays a role in carrying that out. She welcomed everyone to join the OZARES Net on 147.33 MHz every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. She also said they are always looking for new members. The program was enjoyed and well received by all.

50/50 Drawing:

Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP, ran the drawing and Kevin, K9VIN, won it. Congrats Kevin!

Auction:

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, our resident auctioneer did another fine job. Thank you Stan.

Committee Reports:

President Chuck Curran, W9KR, said the Awards Banquet will be held February 18, 2017. Mark your calendars!

Tom, W9IPR, requested that the club recognize Sandy Wirth, W9BTN, for what he has done for the club regarding building usage.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Report: Kevin, K9VIN, had nothing to report.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report: Dave KC9REP had nothing to report.

Secretary's Report/Minutes: Tom, W9IPR, moved to accept last month's meeting minutes and Dave, N9UNR, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Barrow, N9UNR, moved to accept the treasurer's report. Bill Howe, KA9WRL, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Tom, W9IPR, said he is running a General Class licensing program and has two students at this time.

New Business:

Bill Howe, KA9WRL, reported that he will be making another ham radio presentation at Parkview Elementary School in May of 2017.

Adjournment:

Kristian, KC9TFP, moved to adjourn and Jerry, KC9WUI, seconded the motion. Passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM. Post meeting to be at John's Pizzeria.

Member Attendance: There were 30 members present with 2 guests.

An actual attendance sheet is available upon request in a PDF format. Please contact Zack Yatso, KC9ZNR, Secretary, via email at: [zyatso@gmail.com](mailto:zyatso@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Drasch, K9DJT  
Secretary Pro-tem

## **AGENDA**

*December 14 th, 2016*

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Introductions. Chuck Curran, W9KR
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, etc.,
4. Program: W9JI, Pat Volkmann MARS
5. 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
6. Fellowship Break
7. Auction – Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
8. Presidents Report – Chuck Curran, W9KR
9. 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report – Kevin Steers, K9VIN
10. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – David Carpenter, Sr. KC9REP
11. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY
12. Acceptance of Minutes : Zach Yatso, KC9ZNR
13. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow, N9UNR
14. Committee reports.  
Elections:  
Other:
15. OLD BUSINESS
16. NEW BUSINESS
17. Adjournment to John's Pizza

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### **The ORC Newsletter**

465 Beechwood Drive  
Cedarburg WI\* 53012

### **First Class**

Next ORC Meeting

#### **Grafton Senior Citizens Center**

**1665 - 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grafton**  
Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting