



# 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.



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## From the President

De Ken Boston (W9GA)

I guess spring is finally here, time to plan for the upcoming HAM activities, like the ORC hamfest at circle B on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We will need the great turnout of Ozaukee members to help Tom, Stan and the rest of the committee to make our premier hamfest a success once again. Planning also gets underway for the Dayton Hamvention in late May, and the annual Field Day contest in June. With the return of Leon, I am sure the Field Day organization will be assembled. I also get serious for the June ARRL VHF QSO party in early June, with antenna work crammed into the few weeks leading up to the contest.

The Board of directors for ORC is also looking into a survey of the members with regards to the direction of planning for the PEP party. We are looking for input from all of you to evaluate changes to the party which will encourage more attendance in the future. We need your comments and assistance. We are also hoping to bring the corn roast back to life this year, and are strongly considering a return to the park where we have held the roast in the past. Comments and input are definitely encouraged here as well.

I hope to see you all at the April 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) meeting. Ted KB9RLI will be giving a presentation on power generation, where he draws from his many years of experience with WE energies. We meet at the Grafton senior center, doors open at 7 PM and the meeting starts at 7:30 PM

73 Ken W9GA

## OZ DX & Contesting

By Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

Last month I mentioned the DXpedition to the Spratly Islands and how some members of a previous effort to that location lost their lives when their boat was shelled by the Vietnamese military. Unfortunately another fatality occurred on one of the other DXpeditions I mentioned last month. DL4JS died in an unspecified accident on the T2YY DXpedition to Tuvalu. Fortunately fatalities on DXpeditions are rare, but even so, the operators often make big personal sacrifices so that the rest of us can put a new one in the log.

The rare countries are rare because they are in unpopulated areas. Travel often means days on small boats in heavy seas with the accompanying sea sickness a constant companion. It is often very hot or very cold once they get there. Sunburn and heat stroke or frost bite are not uncommon. Insects, rats, crabs, nasty birds, seals and other local wildlife can make things unpleasant or even dangerous. Landing and getting equipment on some of the islands would make a Navy Seal think twice. Then there is the cost.

Chartering a boat can easily be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Then there is the cost of equipment, food, fuel and other supplies plus the costs to ship it to the port they are meeting the boat at. Big DX-

peditions get funding from DX foundations, DX clubs and individual DXers, but the members are often on the hook for their personal expenses and part of the group expenses. These often amount to tens of thousands of dollars each. Those of us who chase DX seriously owe them a great deal of gratitude.

One such DXpedition was announced on April 2. It is an operation from the Amsterdam and ST. Paul Islands (FT5X) in the south Indian Ocean. This place is about as far away as you can get from Wisconsin at our antipode. My logging program says it is 11,396 miles from here. I worked it once in 1998. Looking at the list of operators predicts this will be a world class operation. Two of them are friends of mine and I know most of the rest by reputation. The total cost of the operation will be over \$400,000. The members have to contribute at least \$10,000 each plus their own travel and other expenses. They will be spending about 16 days on the boat going to and from the island. Their total time away from home is expected to be 6 weeks. I don't know many people who can dedicate that much time and money so that we can make radio contacts with them.

More information on this operation can be found at <<http://www.tcdxa.org/Newsletters/March2013-Grayline.pdf>> The DXpedition is expected to happen in January/February 2014. Stay tuned for more information.

There are a large number of smaller DXpeditions in April by one or two hams essentially on vacations. One of the larger and more interesting one is to Samoa operating under the call sign of 5W0M. This is being done by a group of German hams. They should be on by the time you read this and will continue to April 18. They will be on 80-6M, CW, SSB, RTTY, and PSK. They will also be on 2M EME. From the look of the pictures on their web site <<http://5w0m.hkmann.de>> they will not exactly be roughing it.

April is also a light month for contests. One that might be of interest to the newer hams is the ARRL Rookie Round Up. It is Sunday afternoon, April 21 from 1:00PM to 7:00PM local time. It is targeted to hams licensed in 2011-2013, but anyone can get on and make contacts. This is an SSB event. The exchange is call signs, name, year licensed and state. For example I would give out "W1AW from W9XT, Gary 70 Wisconsin". If you were licensed before 2011, you can only contact stations giving out 11, 12 or 13. Complete rules at <<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>> This one might be a good tune up for Field Day.

Normally my radio activity goes down as the weather warms up but this year it is going slowly. Last year we had a couple of weeks in the 70's and 80's by now. This year we have just had a couple of days in the 50s!

## Computer Corner

### No. 181: AntiVirus Programs

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

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MaximumPC is my favorite computer magazine. Although it is supposedly a gamer's publication, it contains much more than that. For example, the last issue had articles on *PC Builder's Bible*, *Windows Networking* and *Battle of the AV Suites*. I would like to reflect a bit on the latter, antivirus programs.

They reviewed both pay-for and freeware versions, and I found it interesting that Norton Internet Security took the gold cup among those that must be paid for. Norton was top dog many years ago but then took a nosedive when it became bloatware and bogged down the machines with in-your-face pop-ups and slow, resource-robbing programming. Glad to see they have reversed all that and now give their customers real value for their money.

More interesting to me is their review of the freeware programs – Avast, Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) and AVG. Avast was the top rated of the three, and so I decided to try it. I installed it on my number 2 machine after removing MSE (note that you may well have serious problems if you have more than one antivirus program running on a machine at the same time).

Once installed and registered (a requirement within 30 days), I noticed a persistent nagging to upgrade to the paid version and banner ads in the main menu. This in-your-face approach really frosts my opinion of any software. Now, if an antivirus program finds a dangerous file, the in-your-face approach is warranted and desirable, but not as a mechanism to generate more income for the software company. Beyond that, the machine slowed considerably when the scanner was active, even though it is a relatively fast machine with lots of memory. After a few days of testing, I gave up. I uninstalled it and went back to MSE.

MSE is still my pick for an antivirus program, and I continue to install it on all machines I rebuild for ARES/RACES units in Wisconsin (44 of them in 2012). It downloads updates in the background, scans in the background and does a very reasonable job of protecting your machine. I still believe that, if you have a \*router between your computers and the Internet, and the built-in firewall that comes with all modern versions of Windows is in place, MSE is your best choice. It is the least conspicuous antivirus program I have seen, and it does work. Yesterday, it found and killed some malware that my wife's (KC9FZK) machine, picked up while she was playing Sudoku on the web! I have said it before: while I am no big fan of Microsoft's programming, this is one package they seem to have gotten right.

Happy computing!

*\*All computers should have a router connected between them and the Internet, even if they are the only computer on the router. A router provides a hardware firewall in addition to the software firewall built into Windows. You can pick one up at a swapfest these days for around \$10. Do it!*

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"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."  
Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949

## Tips, Tails & Tools

In addition to finding that rubbing compound can work wonders to brighten up a faded panel I have also found that a power wash of a chassis, top and bottom less the transformers, works wonders in cleaning up the chassis, components and wired connections.

## ORC Membership Meeting Minutes– March 13th, 2013

*de Gary L. Drasch (K9DJT) - Secretary*

President Ken Boston, W9GA, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members and guests then introduced themselves.

### **Announcements/Show-and-Tell:**

Dave Barrow, N9UNR, recognized Jon Sanfilippo, WW9JON, for his Judo talents.  
Ray Totzke, W9KHH, commented on a Dxpedition

### **Program:**

Gary Drasch, K9DJT, made a presentation on the safe usage of multimeters. The three most common mistakes people make are: Making a voltage measurement with a test lead in the current (AMP) jack; Making a voltage measurement with the meter in the Ohms mode; Making a voltage measurement larger than the meter is rated for. He unfortunately was unable to present his slides due to the lack of a computer projector.

### **50/50 Drawing:**

Kent Christiansen, N9WH, ran the drawing and Gary Sharbuno was the winner!

**Auction:** Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, played the role of auctioneer once again during the meeting. Half the proceeds go to the club's scholarship fund and half go to OZARES.

Ted Schweitzer, KB9RLI, volunteered to do the presentation at the March meeting.

### **Business Meeting:**

#### **PEP Awards:**

Ken Boston, W9GA, updated the club on the awards: Ed Rate, AA9W, Service Award; Terry Kohler, KA9RFM, Turkey Award; and Dave Barrow, N9UNR, Ham of the Year Award. He also mentioned there were openings on the committee.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

AES Superfest on Friday and Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Report:** Art Davidson, AC9CD, said thirty-one people attended the Post Everything Party (PEP) and a good time was had by all.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report:** Brian Skrentny, N9LOO, was not present but Ken, W9GA, commented on the great job Brian has done with the web site. Bill Howe, KA9WRL, said there are some issues dealing with pictures in the newsletter.

**Repeater VP Report:** Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY, noted all machines are working, and there is going to be a hamfest on Sunday in Jefferson.

**Secretary's Report/Minutes:** Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, motioned to accept last month's meeting minutes and Kent Christiansen, N9WH, seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Bill Howe, KA9WRL, seconded the motion and the motion passed.

#### **New Business:**

Lori Ann Parkinson, N9PCA, requested some volunteers to provide communications for a Milwaukee River clean up. The event coincides with the Dayton Hamvention

Gary Drasch, K9DJT, asked where the club stood with the picking up of the duplexers at Cedarburg. Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY, reported they were already gone.

Kent Christiansen, N9WH, reported the audit committee did the audit and found everything in order.

#### **Adjournment:**

Kent Christiansen, N9WH, moved and Chuck Curran, W9POU, seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

#### **Members signing the attendance sheet: 34**

Nancy Stecker KC9FZK; Ken Boston, W9GA; Glenn Classey, KC9UHP; Ron Yokes, W9BCK; Gary Drasch, K9DJT; Jerry Rauth, KC9WUI; Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY; Lori Ann Parkinson, N9PCA; David Parkinson, KA9RNU; Nathan Scheunemann, AC9BU; Ed Rate, AA9W; Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR; Dave Barrow, N9UNR; Ray Totzke, W9KHH; Bill Howe, KA9WRL; Mark Fielkow, KB9PXE; Todd Fast, N9DRY; Nels Harvey, WA9JOB; John Strachota, W9FAD; Kent Christiansen, N9WH; Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP; Michael York, Sr, AE9MY; Adam Schneider, KC9VXQ; Chuck Curran, W9POU; Art Davidson, AC9CD; Bernie Golownia, AA9CI; Gary Sharbuno, WI9M; Terry Koller, KA9RFM; Ted Schweitzer, KB9RLI; Mark Tellier, AB9CD; Janice Hoettels, KA9VVQ; Catherine Holt, KB0SIO; Richard Holt, AB0VF; Paul Given, N9PG **Guests:** 1 - Bob Krubsack, WQ9N

## **AGENDA**

*April 10, 2013*

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Ken Boston (W9GA)
3. Introductions.
4. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
5. Program:
6. 50/50 – Kent Christiansen (W9WH)
7. Fellowship Break
8. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
9. Presidents Report – Ken Boston (W9GA)
10. 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report – Art Davidson (KC9PXR)
11. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – Brian Skrentny (N9LOO)
12. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey ( KC9ONY)
13. Acceptance of Minutes – Gary Drasch (K9DJT)
14. Treasurer’s report – Dave Barrow (N9UNR)
15. Committee reports.  
    PEP – Art Davidson (KC9PXR)  
    Other:
16. OLD BUSINESS
17. NEW BUSINESS
18. 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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grafton**

**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 PM – doors open**