



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:
<http://www.qsl.net/orc/>

Volume XXI

March 2002

Number 3

The Prez Sez

By Leon Rediske K9GCF

While on my trip to Florida, I went to the Miami Hamfest and set up and operated W4LX in Ft. Myers, a special event station celebrating the Birthday of Thomas Alva Edison. We operated on the grounds of the Edison-Ford Estate (you've heard of Henry Ford). Edison and Ford were friends, and Ford wanted Edison to move from Michigan to Ft. Myers. Edison said he was only going to be on Michigan soil!! So Ford moved Edison's whole laboratory to Florida, soil and all! One of Edison's original light bulbs is still operating today for each tourist group walking through.

Anyway we had fun operating, and it was fun being the center of attention for all the tourists. The tour guides did a fine job describing what we were doing. A message center was set up also, and many messages were taken from the tourists and moved out of the area. Everyone had a great time.

While in Miami, I entered the FoxHunt Contest with only a handie-talkie, while others had electronic gizmos and fancy antennas to find the fox. I came in first...for the second year in a row! Won a nice stainless steel multifunction tool and a magnetic screwdriver for my efforts.

I understand there will be a ham station set up in the Milwaukee Museum's discovery section. If anyone is interested in helping set-up or operate, contact Don Doss, K9QEN. 414-281-9294.

World Radio Magazine is offering an operating certificate: "31 on 31," for contacting 31 stations on the mode PSK 31. Check it out at: WWW.WR6WR.COM Anybody want to set up a challenge between several club members? I'm game!

Gabe WI9GC & Tom W9IPR sent out club information to some of the folks that have not been club members recently. The results are that 10 of that group are now members of ORC again. Good work fellows! And welcome back to the ORC. What can we do for you, what do you want to do as an ORC member?

We all hope to see everyone, their wives & significant others, at the "Post Everything Party", March 2, and Hams for the club meeting on March 13th.

Post Everything Party

A really great time was again had by all at the "PEP" gathering at the "Legion Clubhouse" in Cedarburg. Ted Schweitzer (KB9RLI) again did a great job - great food and great friends - the attendance appeared higher and the smiles even broader than at past party's.



The cleansing of the shacks produced "gifts" ranging from 50's era government walkie talkies to crystal controlled scanners, Lotus Software and some really bulky heavy stuff - the "good

stuff" made yet another round. Here we see Vic Shier (KB9UKE) showing off his "new" Ballentine AC voltmeter from the 50's while Nels Harvey (WA9JOB) looks on approvingly.



Jane Rediske (KB9SYI) accepting the "ORC HAM OF THE YEAR" award from party chairman, Ted Schweitzer (KB9RLI)

The highlight of the evening was the naming of the "Ham" of the year, Jane Rediske (KB9SYI). Jane is the one who we thank for organizing the refreshments for the meetings and working the "feeding frenzy" at field day. You can usually find Jane on the "97" repeater in the morning on her way to work at the University – Congratulations Jane and thank you.

Web Sites of Interest

http://wi-aresraces.org	ARES Newsletter
www.emcommsupply.com	Emergency equipment
www.QRZ.com	Call sign lookup
www.aade.com/hampedia/prices.htm	Equipment prices
www.ncdxf.org/beacon/beaconschedule	Schedule of international beacons
Boatan-chors@listserv.tempe.gov	A boat anchor bulletin board

Welcome

Our new and returning members include:

Fred Helmstetter; N9FH; Mequon

Walter Stasiowski; WA9KFR; Port Washington
 Darrell Bretl; W9DB; Port Washington
 Andrew Bretl; W9ASB; Port Washington
 Richard Kimball; WA9MME; Menomonee Falls
 Fred Eltzsch; W9QMD; Belgium
 Paul Schleif; KB9ZNA; West Bend
 Bryan Seaman; KB9ZTA; Waukesha
 Herbert Roehner; WA9UVK; Grafton
 Paul Wiegert; KB9WCC; West Bend
 Jake Schmeling; KB9ZOR; West Bend
 Kristin Bohm; KB9RJL; Saukville
 Ted Nelson; KA9UCD; Mequon
 Vincent Morano; KB9ZOT; Port Washington

Upcoming Events

- March 13 – ORC Meeting @ Grafton Sr. Cntr.
- March 17 – Hamfest 2002 Jefferson Cnty Fairgrounds
- April 5 & 6 – Superfest @ AES
- April 13 – Hobby Electronics Show @ Concordia U. in St Paul MN
- May 4 – ORC Hamfest @ Circle B
- May 17 to 19 – Dayton Hamfest



Ed Rate, AA9W, finds yet another "treasure" at the Swapfest at Waukesha in January.

The SEWFARS swapfest at the Waukesha Expo Center on March 3rd was fun but sparsely attended due to the snow storm Saturday night. It appeared that only about 1/5th of the tables were occupied. However, I did still manage to find a few items that I finally realized that I needed and was able to negotiate some very reasonable prices. It was fun.

Contesting & Special Events

There is a friendly contest here in the State of Wisconsin I want you folks to try. It is the Wisconsin QSO Party. Here are the details:

Wisconsin QSO Party, Phone and CW, sponsored by the West Allis RAC, 1800Z **Mar 10-10100Z Mar 11**. Frequencies: CW--3550, 3705, 7050, 14050 kHz and 15/10/6/2 meters; Phone--3890, 7230, 14290, 21350, 28400 kHz and 6/2 meters. Work stations once per band/mode/county; no repeater QSO's. SO, MS, MM and mobile categories. Mobile operators may not sit on a county line to operate. Exchange SPC or WI county. QSO points: Phone--1 pt, CW--2 pts. Score: Pwr mult x QSO pts x WI counties (max 72); WI stations--QSO pts x WI counties + SPC. WI mobiles/portables add 500 bonus points for each county with 12 or more QSO's. Power multiplier: x2 (<5 W), x1.5 (<150 W), x1(>150 W). For more information, www.warac.org/. Logs must be postmarked within 30 days to WARAC, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee WI 53201.

By Leon Rediske K9GCF

Congratulations to **Mariann Littell (AA9TB)** – she just received her DXCC award – the certificate certifies that she has confirmed contacts with over 100 countries.

March 2-3 – ARRL International DX Phone Contest – This was your chance to work 100 countries in 48 hours – if not, you missed a really exciting time. With only occasional casual listening I had over 50 contacts with about 40 countries. This included Yemen, South Korea, Japan and the Philippines which were new countries for me.

March 16 – 18 – Russian DX Contest

March 16 – MARC Special Event Station – celebrates 85th anniversary as a radio club – 1917, wow - one of the oldest in the nation.

March 25 – Spring QRP Homebrew Sprint

For Sale, Trade or Free

*Microphone, Yaesu MH-31 B8 , new in the box \$20

*HP Audio Oscillator (tube type) Mdl. 200CD \$20

Tom W9IPR at 377-6945

*The First 100 by Stan Kaplan WB9RQR

A compilation of the first 100 PC hardware and software articles written by Stan (KB9RQR) as published in the Badger State Smoke Signals. On CD in pdf format for \$15.00. Contact Stan on the web at skaplan@mcw.edu

If you are cleaning out the shack, don't throw anything away. Waste not, want not. We can always auction it the meeting with the proceeds to go to the scholarship fund or you can save it until the May ORC Swapfest at Circle B and we can sell it at the Club Table for a nominal commission.

Wanted

Rotary inductor for antenna tuner – Stan KB9RQR

Dual gang variable capacitor, 250 mmf per section – small (1.5" X 1.5" panel space) for a 100 watt tuner. - Tom W9IPR

No. 97. Win 98's Built-in System Information

By Stan Kaplan WB9RQR

You may not know that Windows 98 has a wealth of information, plus quite good diagnostic tools, built right into the operating system. Lets explore this a bit this month so that you become familiar with these capabilities. It is not only interesting, but it can also help you to diagnose problems of all kinds. This can be a real time-saver when you install a new device and it will not work, or when a previously working device suddenly stops working.

(Copied from and continued in the Badger State Smoke Signals at www.bsss.org)

Tips and Tails

Need a panel bushing for a ¼" shaft? Disassemble an old volume control.

Need to mark a cable? Use the plastic clip from a loaf of bread.

PRB-1

Good news as reported by Jim Lackore, AD9X, our State Government Liaison:

On Tuesday, January 22, 2002, the Wisconsin State Senate passed, by a voice vote, AB 368 - our Amateur Radio PRB-1 legislation. There was no expressed opposition.

The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature. I have been told that he will sign it, but we ought not to leave anything to chance. I suggest that all Wisconsin Radio Amateur Operators contact Governor McCallum, urging him to sign the bill into law.

Email can be sent to the Governor by going to his website (www.wisgov.state.wi.us) and then to the "contact us" page. His fax number is 608-267-8983. Snail mail can be sent to The Office of the Governor, 115 East State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.

A Historical Study of Vibroplex

By Fred Linn, W9NZF (from the Quarter Century Club Newsletter)

The history of the semi-automatic telegraph key goes quite far back and has included several well-known designers and manufacturers. As the past is hashed and rehashed, several designers and manufacturers surface. Probably the best known to telegraphers is the Vibroplex. Horace Martin was the moving force at the beginning of the commercially manufactured semi-automatic key, and his product name has come through to this day as probably the largest and best-known source of such keys (Vibroplex). Of the many manufacturers making semi-automatic keys, his "Red Bug" nameplate was the most familiar.



Vibroplex "BUG", circa 1950's, used by KOANA who is the mother of Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

His product name was created in 1904 and survives to this day. His key created a picture of the classic and its history goes far back into landline telegraphy.

Vibroplex has made a wider variety of semi-automatics, and has produced a larger volume of keys than any other manufacturer. This company celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1990. (Actually, 1990 was the founding of the J.E. Albright & Co., which acquired Martin's company in the early days of Martin's production...the Vibroplex name was patented in 1904).

Many manufacturers have come and gone during the production of the vibrating contact instrument: Ted McElroy, E.F. Johnson Co., and Les Logan's Speedex, to name a few. Another imitator surfaced briefly (ATOZ, a toy maker) but didn't last long, as Albright successfully sued and removed him from contention ...incidentally making the ATOZ a desirable collector's item! (I discovered one at a church rummage sale).

Of the Vibroplex line, my favorite key is a small version of the bug, named the "Blue Racer", introduced in 1914. It featured a smaller base as a means of clearing a little room on the telegraphers crowded workplace! I have several versions of the Racer which was originally designated as "No. 4", following the "Original", the "two lever", & Model X. This key could be purchased in two finishes... standard black gloss or a nickel-plated base. Later, in the 1940's, the De Lux version was available with a chrome-plated base and jeweled bearings. The No. 4 was an "Original" model with a smaller base, and the damper was changed to a "U-shaped" bracket, forming the wheel support. In the 1950's, the Racer changed from a black base to gray and the U-shaped damper was changed to the "L-type" from the "Original" model.

It is of interest to note that base dimensions vary somewhat from the classic 2.50" x 6.375", but the thickness has remained at a nominal 0.50", varying only slightly with the type of fin-

ish...nickel-plate, black gloss, blue, black, or gray wrinkle paint. The plate edges vary from sharp to rounded corners, with the latest production using square corners and very little radius on the edges.

Fred will be at our March 13th meeting with samples from his collection of "bugs".

Another Shack

Here we find out President, Leon Rediske (K9GCF) doing the "Bencher" press. Leon first earned his Novice license in 1956 while a student at Greendale High School. His first "rig" was a Heathkit DX35 transmitter and a BC348 surplus receiver and that was followed by a Hallicrafters SX-71 (pretty up-scale if you ask me).



Eventually Leon progressed to the shack shown here which consists of an ICOM IC751A on HF feeding an Vectronics antenna tuner and either a TA33 beam or G5RV wire antenna for 160 through 10 meter operation. He runs an FT230 on 2 meter packet and an IC2000 on 146.97 etc. The FT730 in the background is monitoring the 443.75 repeater. Congratulations Leon, that's a real tidy shack.



The Old Time Radio Experts gave a really great discussion of the early days of radio and TV broadcasting in the Milwaukee area. These members were a part of the action of that time. Presenters shown are Ben Evans, K9UZ; Ron Yokes, W9BCK; Bob Truscott, W9LO; Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, and Bob Gorjance, W5CFB. Also presenting with "show and tell" transmitter tubes was Ernie Swanson, K9LO.

So What's New?

By Vic Shier KB9UKE

Getting an additional piece of gear has to be one of the high lights of the ham radio experience. Some hams like to find an old treasure at a swapfest or get a real bargain dumpster diving but I like looking at new rigs and ICOM is coming out with a new one that I just might need.

It is a 2-meter mobile that pushes 75 watts, which would be handy, when I'm on the banks of my favorite trout stream and want to hit a distant repeater. The 200 alphanumeric memories would let me program in all the repeaters for my trips up north, to see the kids and visit the in-laws. There are 10 scan banks and it even has a weather alert function that will scan for the nearest NOAA stations. Best of all it has a programmable multifunction microphone that would let me use these features without reaching for the rig.

The IC-V8000 should be out soon, maybe by Superfest or at least by Dayton. Yes, I think I need this rig... or maybe I should get a dual

bander. Yeah, one with cross band repeat and....What a hobby!

Measuring the Air!

By Nels Harvey WA9JOB

That's what my wife, Joyce, calls it! Most of you know that I am doing work for Evans Associates as an outside contractor since my retirement from Public TV in Milwaukee several years ago. One of the interesting things that I do is to measure the signal strength at various locations for broadcast stations. While we do measure FM and TV stations, this article will discuss the measurement of AM radio stations.

The FCC requires anyone putting up a tower of any consequence within 2 KM of a non-directional radio station, or 3 KM of a directional station to determine if there is any affect to the signal coverage due to the new tower. Directional AM stations have specific patterns that are designed to protect other radio stations. This enables their placement where a non-directional, single tower radio station would not be permitted, or need to operate at much lower power levels. Similar to a yagi beam, there are lobes and nulls of signal in a directional pattern. A new tower placed in close to such a radio station can have the effect of reflecting or re-radiating signals into the null areas, creating stronger fields there than permitted by the license parameters for the radio station.

When a new radio station is built, the FCC's standard pattern system is utilized to provide the best desired coverage while protecting other stations as needed. This new station produces a series of field strength measurements along specific radials to show their design is working, and non-interfering. The radials, probably 8 to 14 in number, usually plotted on USGS 7½ minute maps, extend from the station to about 20 to 30 miles. These documented readings become a part of the station and FCC records. It may take 2 to 9 towers to produce the needed design, and all are driven elements.

New cell towers have been keeping us busy recently. When a new tower is planned, in close proximity to such a station, it is necessary to

provide documentation that no effect was caused to the radio station. Since some stations have had signal coverage shift over the years, we try to go to a good sample of the points in the original documents, and measure the signal there as it is just before the new tower is built, with a calibrated signal strength meter. Then, after the new tower is in place, properly grounded, and supporting all, or most of the antennas desired, we re-check the points in our sample.

While the time-honored method of relying on a map works, I have found GPS equipment to be very useful in determining precise locations and distance. I have acquired a calibrated meter, and thoroughly enjoy traveling through the towns and countryside as I travel to the next point on the map. It is always interesting to discover what is around the next curve, or over the next hill. I am looking forward to the next project where I will be "measuring the air".

OZARES

The OZARES meeting of February 21 was one of the highlights of the year with "Rusty" Capella of the Sullivan NOAA weather station giving his presentation on "the tornado season".

The group learned about shelf clouds, beaver tails, wall clouds, funnels, updrafts, downdrafts, micro-bursts, identifying the storm direction of travel and a host of other characteristics associated with tornado's and storms expected this spring and summer. It was a real "stormy" education.



Rusty Capella trains “spotters” at the OZARES meeting at the Justice Center in Port Washington

Minutes of the February 13, 2002 Ozaukee Radio Club

By Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, Secretary.

Call to order and introductions: The meeting was called to order at 7:32PM at the Grafton Senior Center by Vice Vic Shier, WA9UKE. Introduction of members and guests was made.

Program: Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, Ernie Swanson, K9LO, and Bob Gorjance, W5CFB, all gave more information regarding their roles in broadcasting, and archival information from over as much as the last 70 years.

Auction: Stan, WB9RQR, then held his OZARES auction, to benefit OZARES finances and ORC Scholarship funds. After the auction, a brief break was called before the Business meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Treasurer’s report: Gabe, WI9GC, distributed copies of the Treasurer’s report. Stan WB9RQR, moved, and Ernie, K9LO, seconded to accept the Treasurer’s report, subject to audit. Gabe reported that he had sent 20 newsletters to area Amateurs not in the Club in an effort to increase membership. 8 were returned. He is looking for some help to send out more newsletters. Gabe will print the roster and include everyone paid up as of his return from vacation before the next meeting.

Repeater Report: The repeater Vice President, Dave, N9QA, reported that he still has made no pro-

gress in retrieving the equipment held by the former repeater Vice President.

Swapfest Report: Gene, KB9VJP, reported he has sold a few tables. Anyone going to a swapfest before ours is encouraged to take flyers promoting our swapfest along. He has plenty.

OZARES Report: Jon, KB9RHZ, reported that February 28, Rusty Capella, of the National Weather Service, will discuss severe weather spotting.

P.E.P Party: Ted, KB9RLI reported there have been 35 people signed up so far. He acknowledged that the price was up a little, after three years of no change. He then passed out flyers promoting the party.

Old Business: No old business, but Vic asked about logging programs for Field Day. Stan, WB9RQR, told us Jeff, KB9QQE, was writing a new logging program. Bob, W9LO, questioned the need for ‘re-inventing the software used at Field Day’.

New Business: There was no new business. Dave, N9UNR, announced that he is taking orders for new nameplates for Club members that need them

Adjournment: The business meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2002, at the Grafton Senior Center.

Attendance: Nels, WA9JOB, Dave, N9UNR, Stan, WB9RQR, Bernie, AA9CI, Jon, KB9RHZ, Tom, W9IPR, Vince, KB9ZOT, Gene, KB9VJP, Bob, W9LO, Ed, AA9W, Bob, N9NRK, Brian, N9LOO, Gabe, WI9GC, Kent, N9WH, Terry, KA9RFM, Ray, W9KHH, Jim, K9QLP, Don, W9VSC, Dave, N9QA, Greg, W9DHI, Vic, KB9UKE, Bob, W5CFB, Jim, N9WIU, Jeananne, N9VSV, Gary, N9UUR, Paul, KA9RPR, Ernie, K9LO, Ted, KB9RLI, Mike, WJ9O, Herb, WA9UVK, Ben, K9UZ, Paul, KB9WCC, Gerry, KB9IMH, Jake, KB9ZOR, Ed, AA9WW, Sky, N9XRU, Carol, KB9PZP, and Kristin, KB9RJL.

Meeting Nets of Interest

CST	Freq.	Mode	Sponsor	Day
7 PM	7.233.5	LSB	Century Club	Sun.
8 PM	3.904.0	LSB	“	Mon.
11 PM	1.892.5	LSB	“	Tues.
8 PM	7.053.0	CW	“	Thur.
7 PM	7.070.0	PSK	“	Fri.

AGENDA

March 13, 2002

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions – Members and Visitors
3. Announcements, Upcoming events, Etc.,
4. BUGS, THE VIBROPLEX TYPE, by Fred Linn, W9NZF, collector
5. Fellowship Break
6. Auction
7. Call for acceptance of minutes.
8. Treasurer's report – Gabe (WI9GC).
9. Repeater report – Dave (N9QA).
10. OZARES report – Jon (KB9RHZ).
11. Committee reports.
12. Old Business
 - a. -
 - b. Open to the floor.
13. NEW BUSINESS.
 - a.
 - b. Open to the floor.
14. Auction.
15. Adjournment.

Return undeliverable copies to

The ORC Newsletter

465 Beechwood Drive
Cedarburg WI* 53012

First Class

Next ORC Meeting

Grafton Senior Citizens Center

1665 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, 13 March

7:30 PM