



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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Volume XXIX

February, 2017

Number 2

From the President

de Kevin Steers (K9VIN)

I am excited to take over as president of the Ozaukee Radio Club. I am very grateful to those in the club who have offered their assistance and recommendations as I take on this new responsibility. Feedback is always welcome, and my door is always open! As Chuck W9KR transitioned the responsibilities, I was reminded



of all the unsung volunteers that quietly shoulder many responsibilities for the club. Currently there are 30 appointed positions to chair over 20 committees for the club; from the Audit Committee, to the Sunshine Committee and many in between. While I jumped in with both feet in the journey to the presidency, I propose that some of our younger members review the list of Committee's on our ORC Website. Clicking on the ORC Appointments link at the bottom of the home page, to get a better feeling of where you may be able to pitch in. Hopefully you will find it as insightful as I have.

In The Shack: 160Meters, i.e. the Top Band, has been a goal of mine, and with the help of a neighbor and his very tall tree, I was able to get over 260 feet of wire in the air. My home-brewed Off-Center-Fed Carolina Windom dipole antenna appeared to be the perfect antenna, with an SWR under 2.5, from DC to Daylight. Was it a Christmas miracle? NOPE. It turns out my MFJ259 old-school RF analyzer must have gone through the wringer, and would 'peg' at 2.5 SWR. I found it a easy little project to open it up, make a few minor adjustments to re-calibrate it. Amusingly, my internet search also found out several other things that analyzer can do, which will likely lead me down another rabbit hole. More recently, I logged into a Century Club Net on 160M. This is a net where QSL card exchanges are required. I have been on their 40 and 80 meter nets in the past, so I knew the protocol, and even recognized some of the call signs, as they logged in. Being a newbie to 160M, I did not realize what was about to happen; I was fresh meat on the Net that night. Nearly 20 stations in a row initiated contact with me, which made me a bit panicked. I had technology on my side for once. Earlier that week I stumbled upon HamLog for the iPhone, an App that makes it stupid easy to log contacts, then export/import later. I did not need to click on several fields on my laptop, no fumbling with my

mouse, and this App pre-fills a few fields for each consecutive contact, until you change it. Amusingly, about halfway through the barrage of contacts, one gentleman purposely skipped me to give me a breather, but when my turn came, I was organized enough to initiate the contact with him myself. Slick! Give it a try, it has a call sign lookup feature, and oodles of other features, including contest modes and a field day mode that could (but won't :-)) replace our field day logging approach.

One Last Note: ***Ham Radio Outlet has reached out to let us know that HRO will be having a SuperFest on September 29&30th. Mark your Calendars!***

Bill Howe (KA9WRL) SK



William George Howe (KA9WRL) passed away peacefully, with his loving wife and son by his side, at 12:45 p.m. on Sunday, January 15, 2017, at the Aurora Medical Center in Grafton, Wisconsin.

Born in Macon, Georgia, on September 26, 1943, Bill was raised in Antigo, Wisconsin. As a boy, Bill was active in scouting from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts to Order of the Arrow and was a member of the local Civil Air Patrol.

After graduation from Antigo High School in 1961, he studied electronics at both Stout State College in Menomonie, Wisconsin, and Wausau Technical Institute in Wausau, Wisconsin.

In 1965, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served two years in Vietnam, earning the Parachutist Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal. He achieved the rank of Sergeant, and, most notably, became a Green Beret and member of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). After honorable discharge from the Army, Bill worked at WSAU-TV in Wausau.

In 1971 Bill started working at WCEE-TV in Rockford, Illinois. Then in 1973, Bill began working at WISN-TV in Milwaukee and in 1979, Bill took a new job at WITI-TV in Milwaukee, where he had a long, successful career as a television director/producer.

Bill enjoyed many hobbies and activities including, collecting toy trains, toy cars, John Deere tractors, and microphones; model railroading; ham radio; electronics; his "records to CDs" business; going to antique shops and garage sales; remote control airplanes and boats; riding motorcycles and scooters; photography and videography; family vacations out west; singing in the church choir; playing with the BLT's band; playing the banjo and ukulele; public speaking; doing crossword puzzles; rooting for the Green Bay Packers; and volunteering his time with the Boy Scouts.

Bill is survived by his wife, Clarice Marie (Bruno); son William Dominic Howe (Monica); granddaughter Lila Ann Howe; two brothers, Rufus (Ruth) and Thomas (Melissa); and two sisters, Mary Scott and Cathy Jane.

He was preceded in death by his parents, S. Scott and Mercedes (Hanneman) Howe; and his brother Robert Weld Howe.

Bill served as President of the Le Frog amateur radio club for several years and is a Past President of the Ozaukee Radio Club. He will be greatly missed as a friend and member of the amateur radio community.

Elections and our 2017 Officers

Kevin Steers (K9VIN), President
Pat Volkmann (W9JI), First Vice-President
Dave Carpenter Sr (KC9REP), Second Vice-President
Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY), Repeater V.P.
Dave Barrow (N9UNR), Treasurer
Ben Evans (K9UZ), Secretary
Ed Rate (AA9W), Club and Repeater Trustee
Chuck Curran (W9KR), Past President

DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



As we progress towards spring you might have noticed that sunrise is getting earlier and sunset later. At the start of February, we are gaining about 3½ extra minutes of daylight each day. That might not seem like much but a week later that will be over 20 minutes of extra daylight.

So, what does that have to do with DXing? Well, if you have a job, there is a good chance that that you have been leaving for work in the morning in the dark and returning home in the dark. You have been missing some good times to be on the low bands.

Often, we have enhanced propagation around sunset or sunrise. The reason for this is due to the D layer in the ionosphere. Most of our HF radio propagation is due to the F layer. Like the F layer, the D layer forms during sunlight periods and dissipates at night. The D layer does not have a lot of effect above about 10 MHz, but has a big effect on lower frequencies.

You probably have the most experience with the effects of the D layer on the AM broadcast band. During the day, the D layer absorbs lower frequency signals and prevents them from reaching the F layer where they can be refracted back to earth at some distance from the transmitter. You only hear local AM stations.

The D layer disappears at night and the signals do get through to the F layer and get propagated long distances. Living around 35 miles from Milwaukee stations, there are times that station in places like St. Louis swamp out the local station I am listening to.

At sunrise and sunset, the D layer is partially ionized. Instead of absorbing signals it refracts the signals, not all the way back to earth but at a lower angle tangent until they hit the F layer and get refracted back to earth. Lowering the angle of radiation reduces the number of hops to a distant location. Each hop attenuates the signal so reducing hops helps.

In recent weeks, there have been some good long path openings to Southeast Asia on 40 meters around sunset. Some of the signals have been incredibly loud. The CQ 160 CW contest was the last weekend of January. We had an excellent opening to Europe in the early evening.

My experience is that this works best at sunrise at the eastern end of the path. Sunrise for us is best when we are working into Japan or the Pacific. Europe is usually best at their sunrise. In the 160 contest, there was very little propagation to our area either for the Saturday or Sunday sunrise.

Speaking of the 160 Meter contest, it was good to put Ray, W9KHH and Vic, WT9Q in the log. Gary, K9DJT, was also on, but I didn't work him.

If you are interested in trying a 160 Meter contest, but don't like CW, you have a chance in February. The phone version of the CQ 160 Meter contest starts at 22:00 UTC (4:00 PM local) on Friday February 24 and runs 48 hours. Most contests start at 00:00 UTC, but 160 meter contests tend to start earlier so that we can take advantage of sunset propagation the first night. We send a signal report and our state for this contest.

The biggest contest this month is the ARRL DX CW contest. It starts at 00:00 February 18 (6:00 PM Friday February 17 local). We work other countries except Canada. We send a signal report and our state. DX send a signal report and power. It is interesting to see how many low power QRP stations you can work. A majority of the stations you work will be running 100 watts, proving you don't need an amplifier to work DX.

This is one of my favorite contests. Last year I did a serious effort and did a low power assisted, all band effort. I managed over 1300 QSOs, which was good enough for #8 in the US. At this point I am leaning towards trying to repeat that, but 10 and 15 meters are much worse than last year as we head towards sunspot minimum.

If you like to chase DX, but CW is not your thing, the ARRL DX Phone weekend is March 4-5 which will probably be before the March newsletter comes out.

There are a few interesting DXpeditions in February. One of the most interesting is to the Central African Republic. The call sign will be TL8TT. It is one of the "Terrible T's", so named because a lot of difficult-to-work African countries have T prefixes. This operation is by a group of Italians. They will have 3 stations and operate 160-6, CW, SSB & RTTY.

Although not a classical Terrible T, TX5T will be activated from Austral Island in the Pacific February 13-March 3. 160-10M, CW, SSB, RTTY.

A really good catch would be Macao which will be on February 13-26 by a large group of German hams. They will be on 80-10M, CW, SSB and RTTY with 3 stations. Macao is tough not just because there is not a lot activity but also because of it being a tough path. The group, who will be using the call XX9D, will have a focus on working North American stations.

A group of American hams will be operating from KG4, Guantanamo Bay February 10-24. Each operator obtained separate KG4 calls. Based on the dates there is a good bet they will be active the ARRL DX contest.

Going to the Caribbean during the ARRL contests is a popular activity. Not only do they get a break from winter, but they get to operate at the DX end in a popular contest. Listen the week before the contest, especially on the WARC bands for them as they get their stations set up. That wraps up things for this month. I hope to see you on the air.

The Computer Corner

No. 228: Advanced System Care and others

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664
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Nels (WA9JOB) sent along his favorite “general health - checkup and fix” program, Advanced System Care 10 (version 10.1.0.692 is the latest and greatest as of late December 2016). Offered by respected software provider IObit, it has a one-click path to clean, speed up, optimize, and protect your computer. On the other hand, it still permits manual tweak of these settings should you prefer. It has tools to tweak the Startup Manager, Resource Manager, settings to Hardware Accelerate, Large Files finder, Surfing Protection, and more. Interestingly, it also has a new section to catch intruders who might be accessing your machine and prying into your privacy with new facial recognition technology.

It removes various online ads and blocks malicious websites for Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Internet Explorer browsers. It aims to give you a shorter bootup time with optimization of startup, and it claims to secure your privacy by cleaning programs thoroughly. You can read more and download it by accessing this link: <https://tr.im/1z1uy> on the Major-geeks.com website.

Advanced System Care is one of several excellent (Majorgeeks.com ranks it number two in their list) “suites”. So-called “suites” are several separate programs bundled into an “all-in-one” group that will generally clean and optimize your drive. Some of us prefer the individual programs rather than an all-in-one. For example, I personally prefer to clean my machines with CCleaner rather than invoking a whole suite and selecting the clean function (program) contained within. Others prefers the other way of doing it, and that is just fine, too. Vive la différence! Anyway, Majorgeeks.com ranks these major cleaners this way:

1. Simple System Tweaker.
2. Advanced System Care.
3. Wise Care 365.
4. Glary Utilities.

There are others, too, that you can peruse by going to the Majorgeeks.com website (<http://www.majorgeeks.com/>). As an aside, if you have never been there, you really should peruse the site. It is the ONLY safe site for software (mostly free but some shareware and pay-for, as well). They check all their software for malware. Moreover, they also check the software to see if it really does what it claims to do, at least to some degree. I think these guys are an international treasure and deserve to be encouraged and sustained. There is nothing else like them on the planet! Amazingly, the site is free to use by anyone who wants to. They ask no fee, no email address, no information of any kind for using their data. Happy computing!



Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2017 by Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary

Chuck Curran (W9KR), President, called the meeting to order at 1928. Introductions followed.

Announcements: Gary D. (K9DJT) won the WI RTTY Roundup. Matthew (Bob's son) passed his Technicians exam.

Program: No program was held this month.

50/50 Drawing: No 50/50 drawing was held this month.

Auction: No auction was held this month.

Officer Reports: Chuck Curran (W9KR), President – Thanks to all members for their support this past year. Also a reminder that the Annual Awards Banquet is coming up on Saturday, February 18th, at The Hub at Cedar Creek in Cedarburg.

Kevin Steers (K9VIN), 1st VP – No report.

David Carpenter Sr. (KC9REP), 2nd VP – No report.

Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY), Repeater VP – Lauren and amp; Tom still rebuilding, and there are some voter noise issues.

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary – A correction to last month's minutes: David Carpenter Sr.'s officer report was listed as No report more accurately he should have been listed as Not Present.

Motion to accept the December minutes as corrected was made by Jim A. (K9QLP), seconded by Ken B. (W9GA), and carried without debate.

Dave Barrow (N9UNR), Treasurer – Motion to accept December Treasurer's report was made by Dave B., seconded by Stan K. (WB9RQR), and carried without debate.

Committee Reports: Ken B. (W9GA) has started selections of awards and prizes for attendees of the Awards Banquet.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Election for 2017 Officers: 2017 ballots included Kevin Steers (K9VIN) for President, Pat Volkmann (W9JI) for 1st Vice President, Dave Carpenter, Sr. (KC9REP) for 2nd Vice President, Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY) for Repeater Vice President, Dave Barrow (N9UNR) and Nels Harvey (WA9JOB) for Treasurer, and Ben Evans (K9UZ) for Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. After voting, ballots were immediately counted and Dave Barrow was elected Treasurer. All other positions were uncontested.

ARRL provides club liability insurance, which is required for club use of numerous facilities. A committee will be comparing the club's current policy with

that offered through ARRL and will report their findings.

The Yahoo remailer was discussed and numerous alternative options proposed to facilitate general club communications (ORC announcements, Treasurer's report, meeting minutes, etc.). A committee will be formed for further investigation.

Adjournment: Nels H. (WA9JOB) made the motion to adjourn at 2031. The motion was seconded by Todd F. (N9DRY) and the motion carried.

Attendance: There were 20 members present and no guests. A copy of the attendance sheet is available upon request in PDF format. Please contact Zach Yatso via email at: kc9znr@arrl.net for a copy.

Respectfully submitted, Zachary Yatso

AGENDA

February 8, 2017

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Introductions. Kevin Steers (K9VIN)
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, etc.,
4. Program:
5. 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
6. Fellowship Break
7. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
8. Presidents Report – Kevin Steers (K9VIN)
9. 1st VP Report – Pat Volkman (W9JR)
10. 2nd VP Report – David Carpenter, Sr. (KC9REP)
11. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, (KC9ONY)
12. Acceptance of Minutes : Ben Evans (K9UZ),
13. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow (N9UNR)
14. Committee reports.
 - A. Spring Swapfest
 - B. 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 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, February 8th 2017

7:00 p.m. – doors open

7:30 p.m. – Membership Meeting