



# 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 - Call sign W9CQO

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Volume XXVII

January, 2013

Number 1

## From the President

De Ken Boston (W9GA)

I hope you all had a great Christmas, and that Santa was good to you all this year. I had fun with one of my little nephews this year; Josh had been worrying that he had been a bad boy, and that Santa was going to give him a lump of coal! So I put a charcoal briquette in a little box, wrapped it, and put it under the tree, 'from Santa'. He got the joke and laughed until he cried. When he figured out it was me, he ran over and loudly announced that he was going to throw the coal onto his Daddy's big grille just as soon as he got it out for the spring.

Elections will be held this meeting, and a slate of returning officers and board members will be voted upon by the attendees. Stepping in as secretary will be Gary, K9DJT, otherwise, all other positions are returning incumbents. Thanks to those who have agreed to serve another term. The ballots have the ability to accept a write-in candidate for any of the positions on the board, and if you have someone in mind, do some campaigning and put in their name. Although a slate is presented, you are free to exercise your democratic values and elect another club member. We will also be getting ballots for "Ham of the year" and "Turkey of the year".

If you have not paid dues yet, please see Dave N9UNR to continue membership in our fine organization. You can also do this from the web page, or mail them to Dave.

The January 9 meeting will feature Nate, KC9TSO showing us what our field day operation looks like from a bird's eye view, with photos of the field day op taken from his ultralight airplane during a flyover. His program was held over from the December meeting, due to some planning problems and the lack of a projector and screen at the meeting site. This sounds interesting to say the least.

So brave the cold and join us at the senior center this Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. Doors open at 7 PM and many come and gather to look at the auction items and chit chat.

## Dx'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliff (W9XT)

I hope you enjoyed the Holidays and maybe Santa left you a new radio toy to play with. If not, January might deliver some interesting on the air presents with a couple of new countries.

With the long nights and no thunderstorms to create local QRN, January presents some good time to check out the low bands. A particularly good time is right around sunset. We have been getting some excellent long path openings at that time on 30 and 40 meters. Members of my local DX club are reporting a number of great catches into India and several Southeast Asia countries.

If you want to give 160M a shot during a contest, the CQ 160 Meter CW contest starts at 2200 UTC on January 25 and runs to 2200 UTC January 27. This is a fun contest but I usually don't do seriously but I try to get on for a few hours. One thing that is a lot of fun if I can't put much time in is to get on about 5:00 AM Sunday morning. By then all the serious operators have worked each other and the casual ops are in bed. The serious contesters are looking for fresh meat to work. I put out a few CQs and before long I have a big pile up. I have seen the QSO rate meter hit 300 QSOs/hour for short periods. It is a real rush!

Other contests are the North American QSO Party (NAQP). They start at 1800 and ends 12 hours later. The CW event is January 12, and the phone event is the following Saturday. You send your name and state. It is interest how many guys change their names to Ed during the CW weekend. Ed is about as short a name as you can get in CW.

There are a couple of interesting DXpeditions this month. Lord Howe Island, off the coast of Australia will be active January 11-15. Is primarily a Japanese group signing VK9/home\_call. They plan to be active 80-6M, CW, SSB, and RTTY. Another group of Japanese hams will be on Palau, another Pacific island January 11-14. They will be on 80-10 meters, CW and SSB. Look for their T88 call signs.

SM6CPY will be active from the African country of Rwanda January 15-31 as 9X0PY, primarily CW. He will only be running 100 watts so may not be too strong.

January is a cold month and a good time to spend some time in the shack with a cup of hot chocolate. It seems that my basement shack is colder than my earlier days in ham radio. Do you suppose it could be because the rigs these days are solid state instead of using shack warming tubes?

## Computer Corner

De Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)

### **No. 178: The Car Won't Start. Dead Battery!**

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

715 N. Dries Street, Saukville, WI 53080-1664 (262) 268-1949 [skaplan@mcw.edu](mailto:skaplan@mcw.edu)

**Missing Operating System.** Have you ever had this message or something similar? The darn computer just freezes and will not boot. Has a virus hit you and wiped out

every bit of data on your hard drive? Well, maybe, but that is not the most common cause. The most common cause is garbled BIOS settings caused by a dead or nearly dead battery.

The most commonly used battery these days is a 3-volt CR2032 lithium unit, about the size of a quarter. You can purchase new ones in auto stores (they are often used in the gadget you use to open your car door remotely), jewelry stores and most hardware stores. Of course, Radio Shack will have them, too.

When that 3-volt battery drops in voltage to around 2.6 or 2.7 volts, there is not enough juice to keep the BIOS settings written to a CMOS chip on your motherboard when you turn your machine off. Hard disk configuration data is one of the critical things stored in that chip. If garbled, the volume boot record cannot be found or it shows invalid data when the system queries the chip.

So what do you do? Turn off the computer and unplug it. Find the shiny coin-cell battery about the size of a quarter – most often, it will have a big plus sign on its top. It is there, somewhere. Carefully remove it. Measure its voltage with a digital voltmeter and see if it is below 3.0 volts. If it is, buy a replacement and put it back in to its holder on the motherboard. Then see if the machine will boot.

If you replaced the battery because the voltage was low and it still will not boot, try this. Boot the system with the Windows XP Installation Disk, choose the Recovery Console and from the command prompt type **fixmbr** and press the Enter key. This should restore the Master Boot Record and may bring your machine back to normal. Don't worry – the **fixmbr** command runs a safe process. If the MBR is OK, running this will just rewrite it.

What say? You don't have a Windows XP Installation disk? Why not? You paid for it when you purchased your computer! The vendor did not give it to you? Call them and demand it.

If the battery voltage was OK, or if you replaced the battery, used the **fixmbr** command and the machine will still not boot, you may have a more serious problem. Some boot files may be missing or damaged, or you may have a boot sector virus. This is a virus that is copied to the partition table on the hard drive, and when you power up it is loaded into memory. You need to kill it using a bootable antivirus program (on CD). If the antivirus program succeeds in removing the virus, then you can boot with the XP Installation Disk and run **fixmbr**, as outlined above.

How do you prevent the battery problem? If a machine is 3 or 4 years old, it is at risk for having the battery poop out. So, replace it before this happens. I do it this way, though I do not claim that this is always safe. Replace the battery while the machine is running. Use a credit card or other non-metallic tool to help you remove the old battery and pop in the new one. There should be plenty of juice in the running machine to keep the CMOS data alive. Some folks will tell you that you can replace the battery quickly, even when off. Supposedly, on-board capacitance will supply enough current to maintain the data for the few seconds it takes to change the battery.

Happy computing!

**And the Board of Directors Elected for 2013 is:**



Front Row: Gary Drasch (K9DJT), Treasurer; Ed Rate (AA9W), Trustee; Ken Boston (W9GA), President; Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY), Repeater VP;  
Back Row: Brian Skrentny (N9LOO), 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Dave Barrow (N9UNR), Treasurer; Bill Howe (KA9WRL), Past President and Art Davidson (KC9PXR), 1<sup>st</sup> VP

# **Post Everything Party And Presentation of Annual Awards**

**2013**

**March 2,**

**American Legion Hall  
Grafton, WI  
Cocktails 6:00  
(Rose Harms Legion Post 355)  
Dinner 7:15  
1540 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Complete Buffet Dinner  
Recognition of Spouses  
Gift Exchange  
\$18.00 per person**

**!!!!Reservations required by February 22<sup>nd</sup>!!!!  
2013 ORC Post Everything Party Reservation Form**

**Call sign\_\_\_\_\_ Number attending\_\_\_\_\_ X \$18.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Names of those attending\_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Make check out to ORC...and send to:  
Dave Barrow – Treasurer  
1894 Elm Drive  
West Bend, WI 53095**

## **Membership Meeting Minutes– December 12th, 2012**

De Janice Hoettels (KA9VVQ), Secretary

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

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

Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, asked club members to have their picture taken by Tom Murtaugh, W9VBQ, at his next scheduled picture-taking session. Tom (W9IPR) would

like to have a picture of each member for the club membership database he maintains.

Gary Drasch, K9DJT, discussed some interesting DX QSOs he recently made.

Bill Howe, KA9WRL, asked if anyone in the club would be able to fix a 5-CD changer that belongs to an elderly Grafton resident. There was no response. Bill will attempt to fix/replace it himself.

Bill also mentioned that Ray Genier of AES has requested assistance from the ORC to set-up and run an "open trunk" swapfest at the upcoming AES Superfest. A number of questions about the proposed swapfest arose during the discussion among the membership. Details still need to be worked out with AES.

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, and Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK, demonstrated a new scrolling LED name tag that was worn by Nancy at the meeting. Stan will get back to the membership about where he ordered the name tag from and its cost.

### **Program:**

There was no program during the meeting due to extenuating circumstances.

**50/50 Raffle:** Dave Barrow, N9UNR, forgot to bring the raffle tickets to the meeting, so there was no raffle.

**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.

### **Business Meeting:**

**President's report:** Ken Boston, W9GA, noted that club officer elections are scheduled for the next meeting. The candidate slate will be listed by Ken on the remailer soon. Please see Ken if you're interested in a officer position or would like to nominate someone.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Report:** Art Davidson, AC9CD, noted that the Post-Everything Party (PEP) is scheduled for March 2, 2013. Drinks and socializing start at 6pm, dinner at 7 pm. Food will be served buffet-style, and again will be by the Prime Minister. This year a dessert will be included. PEP will be at the Rose Harm VFW Post in Grafton.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report:** Nothing to report.

**Repeater VP Report:** Nothing to report.

**Secretary's Report/Minutes:** Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK, motioned to accept last month's meeting minutes and Art Davidson, AC9CD, seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Barrow, N9UNR, noted that the November ORC Income & Expense Report was sent by email to the club's members. Any members with questions

or who want more detail should be sure to contact Dave. Bill Howe, KA9WRL, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Committee Reports:**

Bill Howe, KA9WRL, noted that the hall rent for the spring swapfest has been paid and flyers have been printed and sent out to other local swapfests.

**Old/New Business:** Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK, mentioned that Art Davidson, AC9CD, has been named the OZARES EC pending state approval.

**Adjournment:**

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, moved and Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK, seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by the members present.

At 8:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

**Members signing the attendance sheet: 38**

Kate Holt, KB0SIO; Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK; Janice Hoettels, KA9VVQ; Dick Holt, AB0VF; Ron Yokes, W9BCK; Gary Drasch, K9DJT; Bob Krubsack, WQ9N; James Zevalkink, KM6X; Bob Frank, N9NRK; Michael York, AE9MY; Terry Koller, KA9RFM; Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY; Bill Howe, KA9WRL; Art Davidson, AC9CD; Jerry Rauth, KC9WUI; Brian Skrentny, N9LOO; Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR; Glenn Classey, KC9UHP; Ben Smith, KC9TQM; Jim Albrink, K9QLP; John Strachota, W9FAD; Nels Harvey, WA9JOB; Bernie Golownia, AA9CI; John Theilen, WA9KNY; Kent Christiansen, N9WH; Ed Rate AA9W; Mark Tellier, AB9CD; Jon W. Sanfilippo, WW9JON; Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR; Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP; Dave Barrow, N9UNR; Ray Totzke, W9KHH; Paul Given, N9PG; Ken Boston, W9GA; Tom Nawrot, AA9XK; Julia Nawrot, KB9WBQ; Jeff Alper, WB9PZD

## **Minutes of the December 12, 2012 ORC Club Board Meeting**

By Janice Hoettels, KA9VVQ, Secretary

Attendance: President Ken Boston, W9GA; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Art Davidson, KC9PXR; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Brian Skrentny, N9LOO; Repeater Vice President, Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY; Treasurer, Dave Barrow, N9UNR; Secretary, Janice Hoettels, KA9VVQ; Acting Past President, Bill Howe, KA9WRL

Call to order: The meeting was held at 8:45 pm immediately following the end of the regular club meeting; President Ken Boston presiding.

Art Davidson requested additional funds for the PEP live band, which is now \$180, up

from \$150 previously. Ken Boston motioned to increase the band funds, and Dave Barrow seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board members present.

Bill Howe requested the club appropriate \$100 to pay for the Grafton Senior Center automatic fire door sensor and installation. This sensor and its installation represents the club's yearly "gift" to the Senior Center in recognition the Center allowing the club to use its facility for the club's meetings. Dave Barrow motioned to appropriate the money, and Ken Boston seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board members present.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

## **AGENDA**

*January 11, 2012*

- 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
- Call to order Dave Barrow (N9UNR)
- Introductions.
- Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
- Program:
- 50/50 – Kent Christianson (W9WH)
- Fellowship Break
- Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
- Presidents Report – Dave Barrow (N9UNR)
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report – Art Davidson (KC9PXR)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – Jim Albrinck (K9QLP)
- Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey ( KC9ONY)
- Acceptance of Minutes – Nels Harvey (WA9JOB)
- Treasurer's report – Nancy Stecker (KC9FZK).
- Committee reports.
  - PEP – Art Davidson (KC9PXR)
  - Nomination Committee – Bill Howe (KA9WRL)
  - Other:
- OLD BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
  - FY 2012 Elections – Bill Howe (KA9WRL)
- Adjournment to ?



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**The ORC Newsletter**

465 Beechwood Drive  
Cedarburg WI\* 53012

**Next ORC Meeting**

**Grafton Senior Citizens Center**

**1665 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grafton**

**Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 PM – doors open**

**7:30 – Membership Meeting**