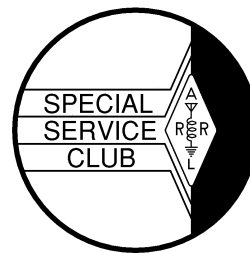




The ORC News -

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: www.ozaukeeradioclub.org

Volume XXIV

October 2005

Number 10

The Prez Sez

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR))

Were it not for the Chicago FM Repeater Club swapfest at Grays Lake and the 50th anniversary of my High School graduating class it would have been a pretty tame month.

Ed Rate (AA9W) and I had a great time at the Grays Lake swapfest marketing the balance of much accumulated "club stuff" for the benefit of the scholarship fund. I drove in early Saturday morning and there was no additional fee for selling in the outdoor areas. Naturally, I set up shop in the great outdoors in the radiance of the sun.

We sold many pounds of iron, an antique radio and a variety of components among other items. In total it all added up to about \$253 net for the scholarship fund. Not a bad couple of days since we also got to spend time snooping around and reminiscing about past transmitters and contacts etc.

While the selling was fun, I just couldn't pass up an AZ/EL rotor that seemed to be a good buy and would work well for a satellite antenna. Now to find or build an antenna.

Prior to going to Grays Lake, I dropped by Mark Potash's home to see the tilt over stand he made for verticals and the 35 ft. portable tower of PVC pipe he designed for field day use - Really interesting and useful projects and now he is designing version #2.

The September meeting was great with an interesting program about radio communications on the railroads by Mike Yuhas and a video of Mark and Naomi Potash erecting his newly designed 35-ft field day tower.

Mike's railroad presentation was of special personal interest in that in '58 - '60 I worked as a switchman / breakman on the Missouri Pacific railroad in Atchison Kansas. That's how I earned the bulk of my collage money. In a sense, the railroad was responsible for my engineering career - pun intended.

Another interesting "ham" event was on Oct. 1 - the OZARES simulated emergency test. A number of the ORC members were involved and it was an opportunity to use the ARRL message format, check into district traffic nets and get a feel of how we might be assigned should a real emergency occur.

I was really pleased with the announcement of Travis Waack as the recipient of our \$1000 scholarship. After reading his resume I was really impressed with his academic performance and his involvement in amateur radio and public service. We can all be proud of Travis from Manitowoc and pleased to know our scholarship fund is assisting students with high aspirations.

What's coming up this month? JOTA. JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) is a program for Boy and Girl Scouts interested in radio communications. For the past several years the LAFROG group has hosted miniature field day in support of the scouts, to get them on the air, at Ledge Park in Horicon. I have been there a couple of times and they really do a great job of presenting amateur radio. Perhaps you might find it interesting to attend and get to know the project. Makes me wonder if we should sponsor a similar program in the Cedarburg / Grafton area.

Winter is fast approaching so it's time to get those antenna supplies together. My objective this year is a 160/80-meter receiving antenna and to extend my double length G5RV to a full

size center fed Zepp on 160. I would like to get started but the weather is still pretty nice.

That's about it for now. Get involved and have some fun.

Tom, W9IPR

NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

A number of years ago the SMC (Society of Midwest Contesters) was formed by a group of hams in Illinois for the purpose of competing for the overall November SS championship in the Unlimited category. As I understood it at the time, the perennial winner was the NCCC (Northern California Contest Club), and the SMC folks thought it would be a good idea to challenge them. Headed up by K9PG, the SMC conducted a huge recruiting campaign to bring more Midwest operators into the group, with the hope of dethroning the NCCC guys and bringing some contesting glory to the area. I, among many others, joined the club at that time and the effort was successful. The SMC won the championship, I believe, two years in a row. However, the NCCC has now reclaimed the crown, and the SMC is in need of a strong effort and an influx of new members if they are to dethrone those California people again.

Please consider this your invitation to join the SMC, and help bring the championship back to the Midwest where it belongs. There are no mandatory dues. You need only to list "Society of Midwest Contesters" as your club on your SS log entry. File your logs electronically or on paper—either is acceptable. Call me if you have a problem, and I'll help you file. We're not looking for "super stars", just operators who can contribute 50, 100, 200, or??? contacts in either or both modes. If enough of you pitch in we can bring the championship back home. See October QST, page 105 for the rules. CW—Nov. 5-7 & SSB—Nov. 19-21.

Upcoming Contests:

Oct. 8---FISTS Fall Sprint—CW—Rules in Oct.

QST, page 100

Oct. 9---North American RTTY Sprint-----Rules in Oct. QST, page 100

Oct. 16-17—Illinois QSO Party—CW/SSB—Rules in Oct. QST, page 100

Oct. 29-30—CQ Worldwide DX Contest—SSB—Rules in Oct. QST, page 101

Oct. 30---Annual Fists Coast to Coast Contest—CW—Rules in Oct. QST, page 101

Nov. 5-7--ARRL November Sweepstakes—CW—Rules in Oct. QST, page 105

Have fun contesting. Bob, W9LO

JOTA –

De Mike Yuhas, KC9GDV

Jamboree On The Air. The third weekend of October every year is JOTA -- a worldwide amateur radio event bringing together Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and hams for fun and education! Locally, LEFROG (Local Emergency Field Radio Operating Group) sets up an encampment at Ledge Park in Horicon. Scouts from around the area drop in to learn about radio, have an opportunity to chat with other Scouts around the globe, and earn credit toward advancement. The LEFROG people set up a very impressive operation with amateurs on different bands in several tents. Ledge Park is located just north of Highway 33, east of Horicon, in Dodge County. For more info, see this page on the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/jota.html>

Railroad Net on 442.100

De Mike Yuhas, KC9GDV

With the blessings of repeater owner Jim Albrinck K9QLP, there's now a railroad net on 442.100 MHz. It started as an experiment a couple weeks ago for people with an interest in railroads to sit back and ragchew for a while. Anyone who'd like to talk trains is welcome to check in Monday evenings at 8:00 PM. Jim's 70-centimeter repeater is located in Cedarburg.

Grayslake 2006

The Chicago FM Repeater Group's swapfest at Grayslake was fun but a bit smaller this year. It is still on the weekend competing with the Peoria swapfest and the nearby W9DXCC convention. However, it appears the fairgrounds have been sold to a developer of shopping centers and the swapfest will be moved next year. Hopefully it will move to a different weekend also.



The commercial vendors were inside the fair building and with a variety of new components and systems. They came from as far as St. Joseph MO. as noted by the WB0W banner in the background.



For the most part the "HAM" vendors were outside selling from the trunk of their vehicles.



Ed (AA9W) and Tom (W9IPR) set up on the ground beneath the sun and enticed the passer by's to inspect the offerings of the ORC and make a purchase contributing to the ORC scholarship fund.



If Ed and Tom of the ORC didn't have it the guy across the isle did – if he could only find it in there.

WHY AM I HERE?

(OR, MORE PROPERLY, HOW DID I GET HERE?)
de Bob Truscott, W9LO

Several months ago Prez Tom asked individuals to submit articles telling the story of how they became hams. Here's mine.

I am a ham today because I wanted to be a military pilot, but never made it.

I was a high school freshman when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 to bring America into WW II. From that day on, I and all of my buddies wanted nothing more than to get into the service and help fight the war. That was impossible, of course, so we did the next best thing, which was to do everything we could to prepare ourselves for the day when we could "join up". We each had our favorite branch—Some chose the Marines or the Navy because they could enlist at age 17 (or 16 if they lied a little bit), others chose the Infantry for the same reason. I chose the Army Air Corps (the predecessor of the Army Air Forces and later the U.S. Air Force), because I had decided at about age 8 that I wanted to be an Air Corps pilot. With that in mind I worked every night after school and on Saturdays to earn enough money to go to the local airport on Sunday and take a 1 hour flying lesson. I figured this would give me a head start on the other guys who had the same goal. While this was going on I joined the local Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, whose mission was to prepare kids for a future in the Air Corps.

The training we got as cadets included 2 weeks each summer at the Sioux City (Iowa) air base, where we had the opportunity get some gunnery practice, using the waist guns of B-17 bombers, and "fly" the Link trainers to simulated instrument flying. This was a really great experience for 16 & 17 year old guys, and it made us all the more anxious to get into the service. As it turned out, the most important training we received in the C.A.P. was not at the air base, but at our weekly squadron meetings back home, where we were taught Morse code by a local ham.

A week after my 17th birthday I enlisted in the Army Air Forces Aviation Cadet Program, with the expectation of getting into flight training as soon as I graduated from high school. This never happened, because the war ended on my 18th birthday and all flight training ended immediately. However, I was called to active duty anyway and sent away to basic training, after which I took a bunch of aptitude tests and was classified as a radio operator because I knew Morse. Radio school followed, during which we practiced code for about 8 hours each day, until we either passed the 25-wpm test or washed out of the course. Some lost a bit of their sanity before washing out, and others had a great time. I loved it, and did well (30 wpm).

After being discharged from the Army, I decided to follow up on the training that I had received, and looked for a school that trained radio operators for airlines. (Overseas airlines still used CW at that time.) I chose one in Kansas City that also offered radio and TV broadcast engineering

training. (Well, they didn't really do much TV training because TV was too new, and nobody knew enough about it to teach it.) It was there that I met several hams that had the same goal that I did, and after visiting their shacks I took the test. I passed, and received my Class B Operators License and Station License (They were separate licenses at that time.), with W0EJA as my assigned call on 10-31-47. The call was changed to W9NYJ when we moved to Chicago, and was changed back to W0EJA when we moved to Omaha, etc., etc. as we moved around the country, and finally stabilized as W9LO when incentive licensing was born and I was motivated to get my extra class license in 1973. I like to think that failure to realize my dream of being a military pilot was fortuitous because it put me on the path to where I am today, and I'm very happy about that. I wouldn't change a thing. Besides that, I probably would have crashed and burned if I'd had my way at the time.

Bob, W9LO

KB9YRC RECIPIENT OF ORC SCHOLARSHIP

De Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, ORC Scholarship Committee

Young Travis Waack (KB9YRC) was the recipient of the 2005 ORC scholarship, administered for us by the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR).



Travis Waack (KB9YRC) of Manitowoc is the 2005 recipient of the ORC \$1000 scholarship

Travis hails from Manitowoc. He was first licensed in 2001 and became an active member of both the MANCORAD Club in Manitowoc County and Manitowoc County ARES/RACES. Since that time, he has become Assistant Emergency Coordinator (ARES) and Assistant Radio Officer (RACES). He also became a member of the local Red Cross Disaster Action team, and Coordinator of the county SKYWARN unit. Indeed, his activity with the SKYWARN unit spurred his interest in meteorology, and he plans to major in Atmospheric Science at Northland College (Ashland, WI) this fall. So, Travis has been tracked into a possible career in meteorology through his activities in Amateur Ra-

dio! Wonderful! We all wish him the best in his future endeavors.

2006 ORC Swapfest

The committee for the 2006 ORC Swapmeet met Oct. 5th at Mike Matthies (WJ9O) photo studio to discuss the format and details of the swapmeet to be held May 7th 2006 at Circle B. There was much lively discussion ranging from tickets to promotion and it looks like it will be another great event. There was even discussion of a second outdoor swapmeet in late summer.



Members of the 2006 ORC Swapmeet committee are Kent (N9WH), Bernie (AA9CI), Ray (W9KHH), Mike (WJ9O), Ron (W9BCK), Gene (KB9VJP) and Chairman Ray (W9BUJ). Dave (N9UNR) is also on the committee but had a conflicting county board meeting at the time of the Swapmeet meeting.

Project of the Month

I got a call from Mark Potash (KC9GST) and he told me about his new portable tower. I went over to see it and was I impressed. It is easy up and easy down and stable in a windstorm. Looks like a great idea for field day application.



This is Mark's (KC9GST) newly designed 35 ft. Portable mast made of PVC pipe, a special surface mounting plate, 4 radial support pipes and guy ropes.

You get no respect

The Following article appeared in a recent edition of the Cincinnati Inquirer. Joe Phillips is a retired schoolteacher and has served as Ohio Section Manager for the ARRL. Submitted by Jim Albrinck, K9QLP.

Ham Radio Gets Renewed Respect

By Joe Phillips

It's like the feeling you get living in the world of black tuxedo and you are a pair of brown shoes.

You may look nice, feel shined and ready to go--but you just don't fit in to what's happening. You get no respect. But it took an American disaster, and now we are featured in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times. National TV mentions us regularly.

As a lifelong amateur radio (ham radio) operator, I'm tired of constantly being told my hobby was no longer useful to computers, the Internet and cell phones. Old fashioned and useless, was the line. Again no respect.

Then earlier this year, amateur radio made a minor comeback in usefulness to the world. The Asian tsunami wiped out power and all communications for thousands of Pacific Ocean Islands and most of Sri Lanka. Amateur Radio Operators with portable generators for power, were the only communications networks for weeks. The only thing in town to link the outside world for tens of thousands stranded victims. No cell phones, no Internet, no GPS satellites. No fancy techno toys. If it needed commercial power, it didn't work.

Only hams had the equipment that could operate on generators and the established frequency networks so other ham radio operators across earth were listening and took messages.

But the ham radio angle was generally ignored here. Most of the operators involved were European, Asian, and African amateurs. CNN International did a 15-minute report--the United

States was the only CNN-affiliated country not to run it.

Then Katrina happened.

Suddenly the "brown shoes" of our American culture became the only communications vehicle that worked in New Orleans. Just like the tsunami, if it needed commercial power (cell phone networks, computer terminals, etc.), it didn't work.

The Wall Street Journal ran a pro-ham radio piece story that mainly echoed our current battle cry: "What is working? Ham Radio." Two days later, the New York Times did the same. Reports about amateur radio involvement can be found on TV everywhere---even the Home and Garden Network.

It is about time.

It took a major crisis for ham radios continued usefulness to break through to average Americans. It showed them that the fancy techno toys always need a simple practical backup, no matter how advanced these toys become. And it demonstrated how valuable ham radio operators continue to be to our country---no matter how old fashioned we look.

10 METER LINK NOW ACTIVE ON 220 REPEATER

De Jim Albrinck, K9QLP

Thanks to the efforts of Dick, K9CAN, and Ted, N9LLT, the 224.18 ORC 220 repeater now has the 10-meter FM link active again. The link frequency is 29.600 MHz in the 10 meter FM band. You must have a General class or higher to talk in on 29.600, but Novices and higher can use 224.18 and work the DX that periodically appears on 10 meter FM. Talk in on 224.18 and you'll be heard on 29.600. Talk in on 29.600 FM and you'll be heard on 224.18. Here's an opportunity for those who don't want to invest in a 220

rig to still take advantage of this underused club repeater.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 12 – Membership meeting. Program by Ray Brunette about maintaining your lead acid batteries

Nov. 12 – General Class Upgrade Training starts at the Justice Center – Call Tom W9IPR to enroll

Upgrade Training

We have the training room at the Justice Center reserved each Sat morning from Nov 12 through Dec 17 for upgrade training to General. We will have 6 training sessions and cover the 10 chapters in the ARRL General Class License Manual. The manual is available at AES for \$16.95. Students should review and start studying the manual prior to the class sessions.

The class content is in "power point" and will follow the manual and is as follows:

- Nov. 12 - 1-1 Commission Rules 2-1 Operating Procedures
- Nov. 19 - 3-1 Radio-Wave Propagation 4-1 Amateur Radio Practice
- Nov. 26 - 5-1 Electrical Principles 6-1 Circuit Components
- Dec. 3 - 7-1 Practical Circuits 8-1 Signals and Emissions
- Dec. 10 - 9-1 Antennas and Feed Lines 10-1 RF Safety
- Dec. 17 - Review and Testing

If you or a friend are interested in taking the class for the purpose of an upgrade from Technician to General or as a review or if you wish to be an instructor, please contact me at 262-377-6945 or e-mail me at teruhmann@sbcglobal.net

Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR

Minutes–Sept. 14th 2005

De Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 P.M.

Introductions: Those in attendance gave their name and call sign. A visitor was present (see attendance list at the end of these minutes).

Bragging Rights: TomW9IPR displayed an old briefcase he is using to hold HT emergency equipment. Nels WA9JOB reported that Ed AA9GT has had knee replacement surgery and is doing well.

Jim K9QLP reported on the new 10-meter link to our 220 repeater on 29.600 MHz (FM).

Mark KC9GST explained how he and Naomi KC9GSS made a 30-foot tower using PVC pipe that could be erected in less than 20 minutes.

Tom W9IPR will schedule a series of six classes for those wishing to upgrade to General Class, beginning Saturday November 12, 2005.

Jon KB9RHZ informed the membership of a CERT course to be offered Oct 8 and 9 and again on November 5 and 6, 2005. This course is designed to inform the public how to handle basic emergency situations and learn the critical skills necessary to protect their family and neighbors.

Program: Railroad Radio Communications Today. Mike KC9GDV shared his love of trains with the audience by his interesting and informative talk about how railroads use radio for communication. We heard the actual voices of dispatchers talking to engineers and trains talking to trains using radio frequencies assigned to the railroads. Information can also gathered by sensing devices, which is sent to a dispatch center and the train.

Fellowship Break: During the break, Mark KC9GST was able to run a video showing construction of the tower he and Naomi KC9GSS built. The video also showed its great physical stability during the storm on September 13, 2005.

Auction: by Stan WB9RQR

Business Meeting: The minutes were accepted as printed in the ORC Newsletter. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read by the president.

Committee Reports:

Scholarship Committee: Stan WB9RQR will have an article in the next ORC Newsletter about this year's scholarship winner.

Swapfest Committee: Ray W9BUJ plans to advertise heavily to increase interest and enthusiasm for next year's Swapfest. He would like to use the Dayton Hamfest as a model for ideas to use here. A committee will be working on the plans and will welcome input from club members.

OZARES Report: Jon KB9RHZ has volunteers helping at a Bike For Wisconsin on September 18, 2005. September 22 is the date for the monthly OZARES meeting. A simulated emergency test (SET) will be held October 1, from 9 to 12 noon. Groups of hams have volunteered to help with the hurricane relief. If interested, contact the ARRL.

Repeater Report: The 146.97 MHz repeater was off the air after the September 13 storm because of a problem with the power supply. The 220 repeater is working well and Nels WA9JOB reminds everyone the 440 repeater should be used more often.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Don W9VSC has 20 feet of water pipe,

Attendance: Nancy KC9FZK, Jon KB9RHZ, Terry KA9RFM, Ed AA9W, Kent N9WH, Don W9VSC, Nels WA9JOB, Jim K9QLP, Bernie AA9CI, Gene KB9VJP, Herb WA9UVK, Will KB9HHR, Leon K9GCF, Mike KC9GDV, Naomi KC9GSS, Carol KC9CBC, Mark KC9GST, Bob W9LO, Ray W9BUJ, Paul KB9WCC, Mark AB9CD, Roger W9UVV, Stan WB9RQR, Tom AA9XK, Julia KB9WBQ, Ted N9LLT and guest Mark Kachel N0OKS.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.
Nancy KC9FZK, Secretary

AGENDA

October 12th, 2004

1. Call to order – Tom (W9IPR)
2. Introductions.
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
4. Program: Maintaining your Lead Acid Battery by Ray Brunette (W9BUJ)
5. Fellowship Break
6. Auction.
7. Acceptance of Minutes as printed.
8. Treasurer's report – Tom (AA9XK).
9. Repeater report – Nels (WA9JOB)
10. OZARES report – Jon (KB9RHZ).
11. Committee reports.
Membership –
Public Relations –
Youth Program –
Swapmeet -
12. OLD BUSINESS
13. NEW BUSINESS.
14. 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 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, October 12th

7:30 PM