The ORC Newsletter

Official publication of the Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc. Email all contributions to the editor, Bill Shadid, W9MXQ (newsletter@ozaukeeradioclub.org). Permission to reprint articles published in any issue is granted provided the Author (as shown in the article) and the Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter are fully credited in any publication.

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Volume XLII	January 2024	Number 1

The Front Page

de: Bill Shadid, W9MXQ – Newsletter Editor

Happy New Year – welcome to 2024. First priority is to change the Roman Numerals on the Volume Number. I am successor to a long line of editors of this publication and I am operating on trust that we, all of the Editors, have kept those letter straight. If we did, then we begin the 42nd Volume – and presumably the 42nd year. Whatever is right, I am happy to be a part of the illustrious (up to now, at least!!) Newsletter Editors.

I hope all had a Happy Holiday. For me it was Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If yours is different then I hope you enjoyed a good time with family and friends.

We begin a bit different format this month with the opening from the Editor. That provides a better way to keep the publication release on time. As you know, some of our content is time sensitive, such as upcoming meeting details and also included information about upcoming ham radio operating events. The realities of volunteer groups is that people give of their free time. The more we can do to make adjustments for people's schedules the more successful the Newsletter will be.

First up, check the lead article from Pat Volkmann, W9JI, Nominations Committee Chairperson. who presents us with the latest information leading up to Ozaukee Radio Club's

Board of Directors Election at the January meeting – 10 January 2024. Also see meeting details also on Page 37, where First Vice President. Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, updates us on this and future programs. Elections are a very important part of operating an organization – and is certainly so for us. Check what is presented and consider what you may called to do.

Don Zank, AA9WP, in his Ozaukee County ARES column this month talks about "ARES and AUXCOMM: What is the difference?." Want to know more about ARES in Ozaukee County? Contact Don at: AA9WP@ARRL.net

Following the ARES Column is an invitation from Don Zank to join Ozaukee County ARES for Winter Field Day. The Winter Field Day idea seems to be more popular than ever since Covid-19, for whatever reason that might be. Also in the article are general information and rules links for those who want to perhaps mount an individual or group setup for the event. Good luck to all those who participate.

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, shares some history on "The Cloud" in his 310th Computer Corner article. No, "The Cloud" is not a Science Fiction story – even if sometimes using this technology can seem so. Take a look for yourself – but start with Stan's column.

Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, is back with his On the Air Activities column – starting on Page 11 showing us the schedule of many upcoming operating events as get fully into the winter activity months. See a continued focus in Gary's columns to include personal operating experiences of our readers. And, for sure, don't forget Gary's convenient "Pull-Out" Page of activity specifics.

On page 20, your Editor, Bill Shadid, W9MXQ, has his regular Vintage Amateur Radio column discussing the Electronic Keyers from the 1960's. See what is different with past offerings breaking into a wide variety of Straight Keys and Bugs. Alas, Straight Keys, Bugs, Keyers, Paddles – it is all explained in the article.

Classifieds appear on page 33, followed by Tom Trethewey with his Upcoming Events.

Check the minutes of the November Ozaukee Radio Club meeting as provided are outlined in the Minutes of that meeting provided by our Secretary, Ken Boston, W9GA. See Page 32.

Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, our Program Committee Chair, appears on Page 33 with info on this month's program. Check the Last Page for Next Month's program.

Need help to get your thoughts on paper for an article? That is what the Editor does!! Let me know how I can help you. newsletter@ozaukeeradioclub.org

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Onward To the Newsletter

Nomination of Ozaukee Radio Club Members for the ORC Board of Directors for 2024

We still need a candidate for 2nd Vice-President. Our Treasurer, Gary Bargholz N9UUR, has certified that all candidates are paid members for 2024.

The Nominating Committee Members:

- Pat Volkmann W9JI Chair
- Jim Albrinck - K9QLP
- Bill Shadid – W9MXQ

The Nominees:

• President:	Bill Greaves - K9GN	(incumbent)
• First VP:	Jeananne Bargholz – N9VSV	(incumbent)
• Second VP:	No nominee	
• Repeater VP:	Tom Trethewey – KC9ONY	(incumbent)
• Secretary:	Ken Boston - W9GA	(incumbent)
• Treasurer:	Gary Bargholz - N9UUR	(incumbent)

More Information:

Note: The Repeater Trustee is appointed by the Board of Directors and is currently Mike Harrington (KD9GCN).

Should any member wish to also be included in the election for a specific office or have questions concerning the elections they should contact Pat Volkmann W9JI.

The elections will be held at the January 10, 2024, ORC meeting.

Nominations from the floor will be entertained however the nominee must be present at the meeting and accept the nomination or have provided written consent if not in attendance.

Detailed information on the expectations for each office can be found on the ORC website under Bylaws and Officers Handbook.

Candidates and voters must have paid their dues for 2024.

OZARES: Ozaukee Amateur Radio Emergency Services

de: Don Zank AA9WP, OZARES Emergency Coordinator, aa9wp@arrl.net

ARES and AUXCOMM: What is the difference?

The other week I was asked by Tom, KA9KJE, our District Emergency Coordinator, to explain the difference between ARES® and AUXCOMM. And it was a great question because it provided the topic for this month's column.

First, Amateur Radio Emergency Services, or ARES, is a registered trademark for the ARRL and it's part of their Public Service initiative. (A few years ago, the ARRL began to emphasize Public Service over Emergency Communications. Which prompted an immediate reply from CQ Magazine. But that's another topic for another day). Other sections of their Public Service section include the National Traffic System, NTS, establishing Memorandum of Understandings with served agencies that include the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Boy Scouts of America, and other NGOs and supporting the National Weather Service SKYWARN program.
https://www.weather.gov/sew/spotter

ARES provides an opportunity for amateur radio operators to serve the public, but it is not strictly emergency communications. Providing communication support for charity walks, bike rides, parades, and other community activities gives amateur radio operators a public service role while at the same time allowing the amateur's radio operators an opportunity to practice radio communication skills such as net control operations, setting up field stations, and message passing skills.

The ARES Emergency Communication role shines when providing communication for shelter operations. Effective emergency communication knowledge, skills in establishing a radio operation in less-than-ideal situations, operating under stressful conditions, and doing it in a very professional manner are the marks of a well-operating ARES unit.

ARES is very much a grassroots operation. The ARES program provides training courses through the ARRL Learning Center https://learn.arrl.org/. The ARES program has developed a field organization structure consisting of station-level appointments, such as Public Information Officer, Official Emergency Station, and Technical Specialist. Next, there are the Section Level appointments consisting of Section Traffic Managers then Section Emergency Coordinators, and the local district and emergency coordinators

At the local level, the degree and subjects covered with training will vary among the ARES groups. Some will be interested in VHF/UHF FM repeaters, some will be interested in digital modes, others in traffic handling and another group may be only interested in

supporting SKYWARN activities. There are groups whose members are not interested in using computers with amateur radio, thus eliminating any digital modes, except for cw. Then there are the over-achievers who want to learn and use it all.

While this satisfies the members, and maybe their served agencies, it does not provide a continuity of practice for an expanding coverage area. Varied groups with their different procedures insert another level of complexity and confusion during emergency operations. And that is not the time for on-the-job training.

This lack of consistency is one of the reasons North Carolina adopted the AUXCOMM program.
https://www.ncarrl.org/ares/

AUXCOMM, created by the Department of Homeland Security, is a public safety program. AUXCOMM is a certification achieved by taking the AUXCOMM course and completing the Position Task Book.

The goal is to have an adequate number of trained communicators, not necessarily ham operators, to be available when needed by State and Local Emergency Management. The communicators may come from amateur radio, but they may also come from Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) or REACT groups. AUXCOMM is not an organization. When a communicator is called to support AUXCOM Emergency Communications, all other memberships, forms, hats, and swag, are left behind. As they presented in training: “When activated, you are not a representative of MARS, ARES, RACES or any other organization …you are an Auxiliary Communicator – leave local organization politics at the door”

The best statement that encompasses the difference between ARES and AUXCOMM was stated by one of the instructors: “When you are called up to support AUXCOMM bring only your ht. Everything else stays behind.” The go-kit will consist of needed personal care items, sustenance, and shelter, and communication items will be notepads and ICS forms,

As stated on the North Carolina AUXCOM website “Emergency managers stated they 2want a go-to pool of trained personnel they are familiar with and who understand how emergencies are handled and who have demonstrated the ability to work within the Incident Command System.”

The State of Wisconsin is working on its AUXCOM program as well as many other states. If you have the opportunity check out the Public Safety Library available on your smartphone Play Store. On the site, you can find the Wisconsin Interoperable Communications Field Operation Guide of WI-eFOG.

OZARES Repeaters:

- **147.330 MHz (+ Shift) (127.3 PL)**
- **443.525 MHz (+ Shift) (114.8 PL)**

ORC Repeaters are On the Air Awaiting Your Call:

- **146.97 MHz (- Shift) (127.3 PL)**
- **224.18 MHz (- Shift) (127.3 PL)**
- **443.75 MHz (+ Shift) (127.3 PL)**

OZARES WINTER FIELD DAY INVITATION

de: Don Zank AA9WP, OZARES Emergency Coordinator, aa9wp@arrl.net

Everyone is invited to join the OZ-ARES members in participating in Winter Field Day.

This will be more of an exercise than a contest, as we will be trying various modes, bands, and antennas.

It looks like we may need sun screen more than snow shovels!

We will be monitoring the 146.400 simplex channel. So, if you don't have a chance to stop by please give us a shout on this frequency.

WHEN:

- Saturday January 27th, 2024
- Starts: 11:30 Local
- Ends: 1630 Local

WHERE:

- Upper Lake Park – Picnic Area 1
  - Far south end of Upper Lake Park
  - Separate entrance and parking.
- 554 N Lake Street
  Port Washington, WI 53074

Winter Field Day (WFD) is a communications exercise. WFD is held on the last full weekend in January. WFD can be worked from the comfort of your home or in a remote location. You can participate by yourself or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is open to participants worldwide. Amateur radio operators may use frequencies on the HF, VHF, or UHF bands and are free to use any mode that can faithfully transmit the required exchange intact. Similar to the ARRL's Field Day, bonus points are earned in several ways, including using non-commercial power sources, operating from remote locations, satellite contacts, and more.

Rules: https://winterfieldday.org/downloads/2024-WFDA-Rules-Packet-V.-10.04.23.pdf
Latest Newsletter: https://winterfieldday.org/downloads/newsletters/WFDNews2024.pdf

THE COMPUTER CORNER
No. 310: The Cloud

de: Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, 715 N. Dries Street, Saukville, WI 53080-1664
wb9rqr@gmail.com

This article was suggested by Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY, during our Tuesday night ORC Net. Thanks, Tom!

There are many definitions of "the cloud," depending on the software company involved and what it offers. For example, just about everything you do with Google can be considered cloud computing. See that Gmail address above in the header? My email is actually all in the cloud, because it is held on servers that may be in one of several locations, none of which are under my control. So, an all-inclusive definition of The Cloud is *"on-demand availability of computer system resources, especially data storage (cloud storage) and computing power, without direct active management by the user"* (see *Cloud Computing*, Wikipedia). Note especially the words "without direct active management by the user," which makes cloud computing beyond reasonable risk for many of us in many circumstances, but maybe not in all.

When most of us end users think about the cloud, we think of using it for safety storage of "our stuff." So, if we have a hard drive failure or a fire or some other unexpected destruction of our home computing hardware and data, we could recover all "our stuff" (the data) from cloud storage after the hardware has been fixed or replaced. That seems a reasonable and good thing.

Now, there are other ways to do that besides storing copies in the cloud. A monthly backup of "our stuff" is one way. "Our stuff" does not include the Operating System, such as Windows itself, which can be replaced easily in other ways. It also does not include individual programs; these can also be replaced in other ways. But it does include our *creations*, such as letters, articles, photos, stories, poems, and other data that we capture or create ourselves. Those are largely irreplaceable.

Want to make a monthly backup easy? There is a free program available at Majorgeeks called Fbackup (version 9.8.840, 17Nov2023) that can help. Written and made available by a long-standing, solid software company called Softland, this totally free program (the only cost is an occasional nag ad about other of their pay-for products) will automatically compile a zipped copy of all "your stuff" each day, month, week, or at whatever interval you would like. You can then transfer that copy to a DVD disc or other storage space of your liking, such as another hard drive, or computer or wherever you wish. If you don't

segregate “my stuff” as I do, you can specify what files you want backed up when you set up the program, no matter where they are on your hard drive.

In my case, selecting “my stuff” is incredibly easy, since all my creations are segregated on an E: drive (my Windows 10 is restricted to C: and programs are all kept on D:). That is a ploy I have been advocating for years. So, all I have to do is include everything in my weekly backup found on the E: drive excluding any system files or folders that I don’t want to back up. Then, the backup is done automatically Wednesday at 3:47 a.m. while I am sleeping and is ready for transfer to a DVD or another computer or offsite the next morning. The only thing I MUST do is to suppress the tendency to forget copying the zipped backup to a DVD or another computer. If I did forget, a catastrophic failure of my main machine would then leave me without an up-to-date weekly backup! Yes, there is a way to get around the problem. Fbackup will copy a freshly made backup to another computer.

So, what I have done in this article is to show you how to make useful backups of your creations at intervals of your choosing that can be moved off your machine and even stored off site with little effort and at no cost other than for a DVD. I have ignored using the cloud in this process because the cloud involves risk. Putting your data in the cloud by using Microsoft OneDrive or Dropbox or other brands of the cloud means your data must be encrypted and sent to them, or encrypted by them, and exposed to manipulation by strangers to store it on servers not under your control, often at the cost of a fee. Why not do it yourself and avoid fees and the risk of manipulation by strangers? Especially now that I have shown you an easy, practically no-cost method. Why not avoid the risk of a server that is not under your control going down with your data in it? The backup method and program I have referenced for you makes it free and easy to manage yourself.

Try it. Then if you find it as easy as I have described, uninstall Azure or other cloud-using brands. Note that I said UNINSTALL, not erase. HiBit Uninstaller is a free and easy program to do just that, and it will not leave pieces and bits laying around to clutter up your Registry or other areas in your machine as will the Windows Control Panel Uninstall Programs application or some other uninstall software. Get HiBit Uninstaller at Majorgeeks! Happy Computing!

Winter Field Day

On The Air Activities!

de Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

2023 Wrap Up

The New Year is a time to look back and forward. We are probably near the top of the sunspot cycle. Many involved with sunspot cycle predictions think we might peak sometime in 2024. I sure hope not. It seems we have not had excellent conditions on the high bands that long after years of low sunspot activity. If we hit the peak this year, we won't know until six months later. But the good news is that the sunspot count tends to drop slower than it goes up at the start of the cycle.

Part of my disappointment is probably due to the poor conditions for several big contests. During solar maximum, we are more likely to have solar flares. Big ones cause blackouts at the time of the flare, and charged particles, part of Coronal Mass Ejections (CME), disrupt the Earth's geomagnetic field, closing down polar paths for several days. We had solar flares before a few fall contests.

We had three big flares just before the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. While conditions were pretty good, they were not what I had hoped for. I actually did better in 2022. I suspect the series of solar flares before the 10 Meter Contest was probably at least partly responsible.

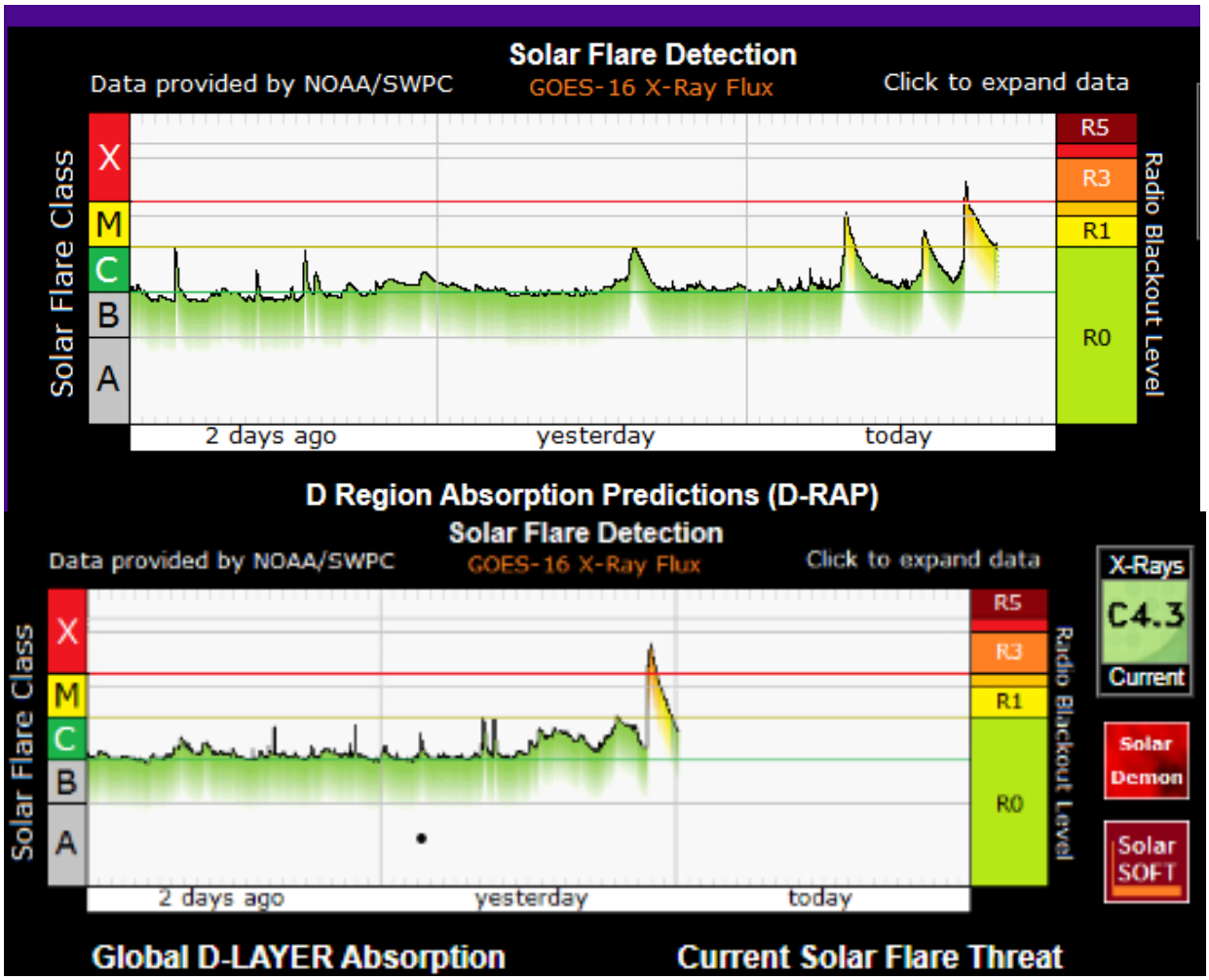
C-class flares are pretty common but not strong enough to have much effect. Higher level M class flares often harm HF propagation, and X class flares are the biggest and most likely to disturb propagation. A radio blackout will happen in sunlight areas, with the biggest effect in areas around solar noon. Conditions usually return to normal after a few hours. The impact of the CME from a flare depends on the size of the flare and the direction it travels. If aimed at us, they arrive in 2-3 days, depending on their speed.

The sun gave us one more big flare to cap off 2023. It was an M5.5 class just before midnight (UTC) on December 31. It was the largest flare of cycle 25 so far and the biggest since September 2017.

In between the flares, 2023 was a good year for DXing. Vic, WT9Q, reports 2023 was a very good year, mostly because 10 meters was so active. He finished WAS on 160 and 10 meters. He worked nine All Time New Ones (ATNOs), including Malawi, Rodrigues Island, Andorra, and Chatham Island. Vic's goal for 2024 is to finish WAS on all the HF bands. He must still complete it on 12, 15, 17 and 30 meters.

Gary, N9UUR, also had fun DXing in 2023. Gary reports working 226 countries, with 222 confirmed. Gary reports new ones are harder to find. Well, Gary, it gets harder and harder as your count increases! Another Gary, K9DJT, worked a ton of new band countries

(NBCs) along with a fair number of ATNOs last year. Gary also noted finding ATNOs gets more difficult as time goes by.



Top: Solar flare on Dec 14. Bottom: Solar flare on December 31. The one to end the year was measured as an X5.5 class flare, the largest of this solar cycle. From Solarham.net

Fred, W9KEY, was actively chasing DX in 2023. Fred picked up 25 ATNOs, bringing him up to 222. He is disappointed that he missed some of the fall DXpeditions. Fred also participated in the DX Marathon. The goal of the program is to work as many unique DXCC entities and CQ zones as possible. Fred submitted a score of 239 from 199 countries and all 40 zones. This is the first time he participated in the competition.

Fred also logged his 40,000th QSO at the end of 2023. Fred's goals for 2024 include finishing WAS on 160 meters (AK, HI, AK) and on 6 meters (AK, HI, NV). He has worked 95 countries on 60 meters, but the band does not count for DXCC. He also vows to pay more attention to DXpedition schedules in 2024.

I keep track of the countries I work each year. I had 250 unique countries worked and just over 1000 band countries in 2023. Part of the high numbers was due to so many excellent DXpeditions. Although I have a pretty good antenna system, all were worked with 200 watts or less.

VHF

We continue to look for the long awaited F2 opening on 6M. The sunspot count dropped throughout most of December, so the solar flux just never got high enough for it to happen, at least for those in the upper Midwest. Maybe we will get some in January.

Last month, I forgot to mention the Geminids meteor shower that occurred around December 12-13. It is a good shower for VHF because of the high number of large and slow moving meteors. It is also a nice visual show because the meteors are bright. I went out in the early morning and saw a few. It was cold at 4:00AM in December, so I didn't stay out long.

I concentrated on 2M using the WSJT mode MSK144. I was happy to work a station in Wyoming. It was my 39th state on the 2M band, so I was very excited to complete it.

Twelve Days of Christmas Special Event

Something else I forgot to mention last month was the Twelve Days of Christmas Special Event. Bill, W9MXQ, did not forget and sent along his remarks on the event.

"I have been a supporter and participant in the annual Twelve Days of Christmas Special Event since its beginning five years ago – with a clean sweep every year. This year, I made a clean sweep on each of the three modes (SSB, CW, and FT8) with the SSB effort, including the two Canadian Wild Card Stations of VE9XMAS1 and VE9XMAS2. I did not hear nor see spotted those Canadian stations on CW or FT8. Perhaps they only worked SSB. My station consisted of a 200-watt output Yaesu FTdx-101MP and my GAP Titan DX Vertical Dipole Antenna on SSB and CW. On FT8, my station was a Yaesu FT-991A at 20-watts output, with the same antenna.

The Twelve Days of Christmas Special Event involves twelve special 1x1 call signs in W2(x) and K2(x) format for a total of 12 stations – each assigned a name out of the Twelve Days of Christmas song. The two Canadian stations are similarly special call assignments. Many of the twelve station calls are moved around over the time of the event. W2D, assigned as Eleven Pipers Piping, was being operated by Dennis, WB9MSM, in Watertown, WI, when I worked him. I was fortunate to talk to Dennis, less than thirty miles away, on 40 meters. And we had a long conversation on our mutual interest in old radios.

Separately, I ran two more clean sweeps (this time without the Canadian wild card stations) on both SSB and CW using several different Vintage Amateur Radio setups. That will be detailed in a future ORC Newsletter that includes several other ORC members and non-members strictly using Vintage Amateur Radio equipment.

The Twelve Days of Christmas Special Event is definitely casual. Many of the contacts involve significant conversation. This event and the 13 Colonies Special Event around the 4th of July Celebration in the United States are similar in layout. Also, a lot of fun to operate and two events I most look forward to joining."

VOTA

The ARRL ran the Volunteers On The Air program the whole year. It was created to put the spotlight on the volunteers who help the ARRL as well as volunteers for other ham organizations. Volunteers are critical to organizations like the ARRL and local clubs. Changes in our society have produced a real crisis in getting people to volunteer, and many organizations have crucial positions open. Even the ORC, with its large membership, does not have candidates for all of its officer positions for the January election as of the date this is being written.

Vic, WT9Q, and I operated as W1AW/9 early last year as part of the VOTA program. Fred, W9KEY, was active in the on the air VOTA activity. Fred describes the program and his results.

ARRL's 2023 Volunteers On The Air (VOTA) year-long "competition" provided an opportunity (perhaps excuse) to exceed 12,000 contacts this year, 33% more than 2022.

Basically, the VOTA competition consisted of accumulating points for working ARRL members. Point values were determined by the member's position within the organization, ranging from 1 point for a general member to 300 points for ARRL's President. 0

I had no idea there were so many ARRL positions/titles - the list was 2-1/2 pages long! To accumulate points, participants only had to submit their logs to Logbook of the World.

Two "Red Badge" days were held in December, where high point value stations were encouraged to be on-air. Both Red Badge days (12/17 and 12/31/23) were very active. Although final results are pending, the leaderboard at year-end shows me in 4th place in Wisconsin, and # 151 in the USA. Like many contests - it was great fun, but a relief now that it's over!

Ethiopia

Two friends of mine will return to Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society club station, ET3AA, located at the Addis Ababa University, Institute of Technology. Most of the operators at ET3AA are engineering students.

There is a Wisconsin connection. Bob, W9XY, lives in Montello, northeast of Portage. Ken, K4ZW, grew up in Cedar Grove, which is north of Port Washington. His old call was WD9DEE.

Ken and Bob have been there a few times in the past, helping with work on the station and training operators. In between, they get on the air themselves.

During this trip, they will be doing maintenance on the log periodic antenna rotator and any other equipment needing repairs. They will also deliver a new IC-7610 generously donated by DX Engineering and Icom.

Ethiopia is a pretty rare entity on the low bands. In the past, Ken and Bob have attempted low band operating. Two problems hindered them. One is that it is in a dangerous area, and the university is locked down at night. They got permission to stay overnight a couple of times, but high noise levels crippled their efforts. They hope to establish a remote receiver on this trip to fight the noise.

Ken, K4ZW (L) and Bob, W9XY (R), on a recent trip. W9XY Photo.

They will be at the Institute of Technology January 12-20.

Some of the operators at ET3AA.

W9XY photo.

Free DXing eBook

When I first started DXing in the early 1970s, I was told tales of Danny Weil, VP2VB. Danny sailed around the world on his sailboat, the Yasme, and operated from rare islands starting about 1955 and into the early 1960s. That was no easy feat, with the radios being heavy tube types and requiring large generators.

Later, Lloyd Colvin, W6KG, and his wife Iris, W6QL, were active during Lloyd's many Army overseas assignments. He was an officer in the Signal Corps. After he retired, the Colvin's traveled worldwide, operating from about 150 countries. They gave me many new countries in the 1970s, 1980s, and into the 1990s. The Colvins were frequently at Dayton, where I met them. They set up the YASME Foundation, which to this day sponsors DXpeditions.

In 2003, Jim Caine authored the book *YASME The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions.* It tells the story of Weil and the Colvins, along with some other colorful figures in the world of DXing in the last half of the previous century. The ARRL published the book, and I have a copy somewhere.

The book is now available as a free PDF download. It is an interesting history of days gone by, and certainly worth the price! https://www.yasme.org/the-yasme-book

Contests

After a few weeks off for the Holidays, contests resume in January. The ARRL RTTY Roundup is the first weekend of the year, starting on Saturday, January 6, at noon local time. Send a signal report and state.

If you operate FT8 but never operated RTTY, you have all the equipment you need. You will need a program for RTTY. I use MMTTY, which is a free program, and it integrates well with N1MM. It is a bit more work than FT8 because you must tune in each station and can only decode one station at a time. QSOs go faster than FT8. RTTY has its charms. Give it a try if you have never used it. Since the introduction of FT8, casual RTTY has declined except during contests. Some DXpeditions use it as well.

The North American QSO Parties are January 13-14 (CW) and January 20-21 (SSB) weekends. The exchange is your name and state. They start at noon local time and run 12 hours, but you can only work 10 hours. They are terrific contests for small stations since most of your contacts will be with the US and Canada, and low antennas are effective for those distances.

Overlapping the SSB NAQP on the first day is the ARRL January VHF contest. The January VHF version follows the same format as the other ARRL VHF contests in June and September. Send your grid square. You can work a station only once, regardless of mode. The January event does not have the activity that the other ones have. Sporadic E propagation is uncommon in January, and Tropo is less common than in September. The cold January weather and the possibility of snow cuts down the rover participation, but it is an excellent chance to give the VHF gear a workout.

The final big contest of January is the CQ 160M contest. This is the CW weekend. The SSB version is in February. I have gotten into 160M contests. The activity is good, and you get the daytime off since 160 meters does propagate far during the day. Send a signal report and your CQ Zone, which is 04 for us.

DX

After a lull in December, DXpeditions return. There are many small operations in warm locations as hams travel to get away from winter for a while. Keep an eye out for them. Operations are often sporadic, in free time between other vacation activities.

A group of Japanese will head to Palau in the Pacific Ocean. Each will have their own call sign starting with T88. Look for them on 150-10 meters, using CW, SSB, and FT8. They will be active Jan 12-18.

The biggest DXpedition of January is to Clipperton Island. Clipperton is southwest of Mexico. Now a nature reserve, access to the island is limited. The last operation was in 2015, and it is #37 on the most wanted list. Besides HF operating, they plan to operate satellites and EME.

Yemen has been a challenging country to work. Unrest in the Middle East has made it a dangerous place to go. However, there were two DXpeditions there in November. Both were from Socotra Island, which is apparently safer and easier to get permission to operate from. If you missed it, you get another shot in late January. OK2WX will visit the island with special emphasis on 160, 80, and 40 meters. A Spiderbeam covers the higher bands. Vlad also plans to operate in the CQ 160M Contest.

That wraps up January. With the holidays over, it is time to settle in with some ham radio operating.

Check the following page for Operating Tips on a Separate Sheet

January is a great month for antenna work! AI generated.

W9XT's Contest, Operating, and DXpeditions for January and early February 2024

W9XT's DXpedition picks for January and early February 2024					
QTH	**Dates**	**Call**	**Bands**	**Mode**	**Link/notes**
Palau	Jan 12-18	T88xx	160-10	CSD	4 ops, with separate T88 call signs
Ethiopia	Jan 12-20	ET3AA	HF	TBD	See comments above
Clipperton	Jan 18-Feb 01	TX5S	160-6 satel-lite, EME	CSD	https://clip.pdxg.net/
Yemen	Jan 25 – Feb 12	7O2WX	160-10	CW focus	https://www.dx-world.net/7o2wx-yemen/

Modes: C = CW, S = SSB, D = Digital (may include RTTY)

W9XT's contest picks for January and early February 2024					
Name	**Start**	**Length**	**Bands**	**Mode**	**Link**
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z Jan 7	30 hours, work 24 max	HF	RTTY only	https://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup
North Ameri-can QSO Party (CW)	1800Z Jan 13	12 hours, work 12 Max	HF	CW	https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
North Ameri-can QSO Party (SSB)	1800Z Jan 20	12 hours, work 12 Max	HF	SSB	https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z Jan 20	34 hours	6M and up	CW, SSB, Digital	www.arrl.org/january-vhf
CQ 160M Con-test CW	2200Z Jan 26	48 hours	160	CW	www.cq160.com

Dates/Times in UTC. Subtract 6 hours from UTC to get local (CST). HF = 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters

Vintage Amateur Radio

de Bill Shadid, W9MXQ

For many years, Morse Telegraphy was tied to what we know as the straight key and later the semi-automatic (and automatic, in rare cases) key. Those semi-automatic and fully automatic keys were better known as a “bug.”

Mechanical code generators (keys) are a topic unto itself. For this installment we are going to discuss several electronic keyers – as became popular after World War II, into the 1950’s, and right up to this day. Electronic keyers today are so popular that even the lowest cost, entry level transceivers, include electronic keyers as part of the basic radio. But that is today. We are going to talk about four electronic keyers from the 1960’s – both vacuum tube and solid-state designs.

The first of the keyers we will look at comes from the late 1950’s in the form of the Hallicrafters HA-1 TO Keyer. The “TO” in the name refers to W9TO, who designed this keyer and published its design in QST Magazine well before it was manufactured by Hallicrafters.

Hallicrafters HA-1 ‘TO Keyer – from 1960

W9MXQ Photo

I can remember seeing home brew versions of these keyers when touring hamfests in the 1960's. But that is a long time ago and I have not seen a home built TO Keyer in many years. Even the very popular HA-1 product is getting hard to find – and much more so in the physical and electrical condition that I require.

In 1960, in describing their HA-1 product, Hallicrafters talked about electronics that were based on "modern digital electronic computers"[1] of the day. Thinking in terms of that time, "modern" digital electronic computers used tubes, like the 12AU7A Dual Triodes. The HA-1 uses two 12AU7A tubes in two different multivibrator circuits (one for dots and one for dashes). The two additional triodes in a third 12AU7A Dual Triodes are used independently to actually trigger the two multivibrator tubes. The fourth 12AU7A Dual Triode is used in two areas – one each for the two triodes in the tube – for keyer output to drive the keying relay and one to amplify the output of a relaxation oscillator, using a neon tube to provide the sidetone audio.

This keyer is one of two in this article that I have used a great many times over the years. Like many (but not all) of the keyers from the time, this one could provide limited voltage and current performance in cathode keyed transmitters. As such it is good to understand that at the time, most keying was done in the cathode return circuit of one of the transmitter stages. The mercury wetted relay contacts, however, did have limits. An example described in the manual indicated that the relay was able to handle a 500-volt DC plate circuit running up to 500 mA (1/2 Ampere) for a power of 250 watts. That is quite a way from a modern transceiver that cannot switch much more than 60 volts DC at 200 mA (or 30 volts DC at 1 Ampere).[2]

By my time in the hobby (early 1960's), transmitters were moving to grid block keying which keyed the final amplifier tube by controlling voltage applied and removed from the amplifier grid. This allowed keying at a much lower voltage and current – but still required a relatively high voltage of -60 to -100 at the key, at a few mA. Some modern keyers, but certainly not all of them, can handle this grid block keying voltage. To the contrary, as it happens, the vintage keyers, like the Hallicrafters HA-1, can easily and effectively key a modern transceiver.

The Hallicrafters HA-1, TO Keyer, is the keyer of choice at W9MXQ, but is not the only one used. All of the keyers in this review have what are called self-completing characters. That is, once a key (the dot or the dash lever) is touched, that character will be completed before any other command can take place. So, if you press the dash key then suddenly press the dot key, the dash character will complete then the dot will sound. But, you have to hold the Dot until the dash is completed for the Dot to sound. So, the keyer will provide consistent timing in most situations one can imagine.

The keying paddle of the day was a single lever that generated dots if pressed to the right and dashes if pushed to the left. Modern keyers (and radios with internal keyers) require dual lever paddles so that both can be pressed for a set of sending features using Iambic Keying. Simply stated (but not to be covered in detail in this article), pressing both paddles at once will begin a string of dot-dash-dot-dashes will send. That is akin to Iambic

Pentameter in reading poetry – hence its keyer feature name, Iambic Keying. Personally, I can work with both the self-completing standard format used in the keyers in this article, and Iambic Keying. I do prefer Iambic for its many extra features but given a few minutes I can mentally adjust to either.

Hallicrafters HA-1 'TO Keyer – Inside Chassis View

Front Panel to the Left – Note the plug-in keying relay at the top center of the picture. The three closest tubes are 12AU7/5963 units. The tube at the top left is a 12AU7A.[3] The two tubes under the hold down clamps (upper right) are OA2 Regulator Tubes. The small transformer at the left is the audio output transformer and the large transformer to the lower right is the AC power transformer.

W9MXQ Photo

The interior of the Hallicrafters HA-1, TO Keyer, has a pleasing layout. This particular unit, as you can see in the two pictures looks as if it was manufactured only yesterday. The keying relay pointed out above is sealed and not repairable. Until a few years ago

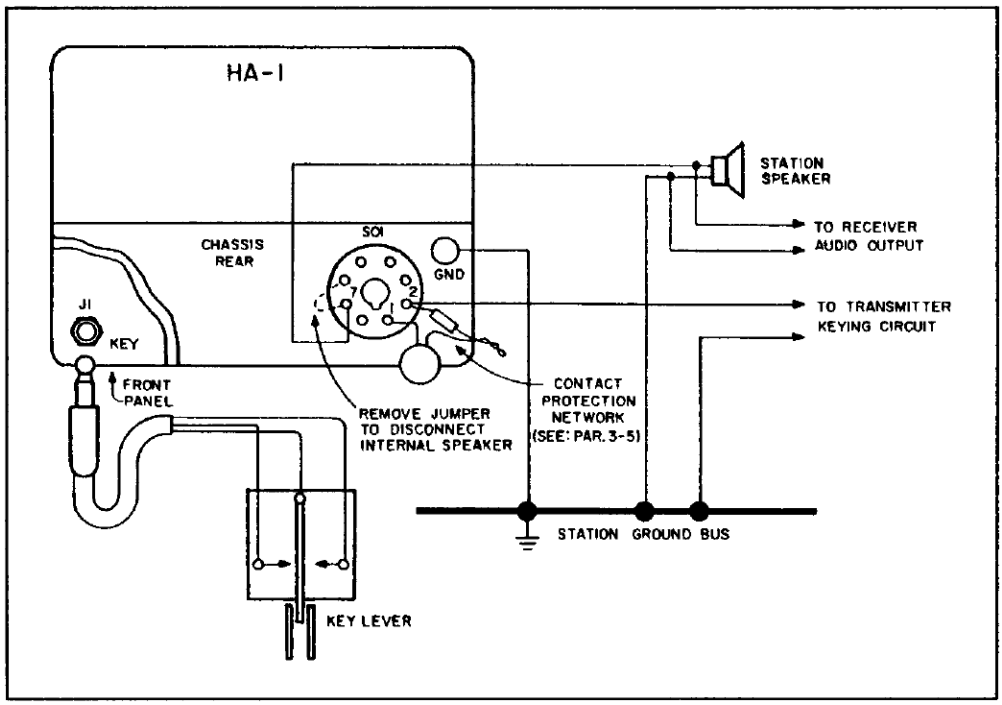
replacement relays were available but may be hard to find by now. I never use mine anywhere close to its maximum specifications and so far, have not had to use a spare that has been here almost as long as the HA-1.

One really special find as a collector are the branded tubes from the larger manufacturers of ham radio equipment made during the vacuum tube era. Note one of the 12AU7/5963 tubes pulled to be photographed from the HA-1 Keyer:

Note this picture of one of the 12AU7/5963 tubes pulled from the HA-1 Keyer for this photograph. This tube is clearly branded as “Hallicrafters” and shows the common for the day, “MADE IN U.S.A” label right below the brand.

Comparing the 12AU7/5963 in this instance to an RCA branded version makes me think that the source for at least this tube was RCA. That is only my opinion, however.

W9MXQ Photo



Station and Paddle Connection Diagram – Hallicrafters HA-1 TO Keyer
Note the single lever paddle.
Hallicrafters HA-1 Operating Manual

I must add that Hallicrafters produced an updated version of the HA-1 that only changed in the front panel to use knobs for later model Hallicrafters radios. This picture shows an HA-1 that has the later knobs added. But this is not an HA-1A, as the new model was called. I was unable to locate a picture of the HA-1A, but I have talked to owners and a proper unit has the model show on the panel showing as HA-1A.

This is a updated Hallicrafters HA-1 Keyer that shows the installation of the later knobs that match the later Hallicrafters radios. The original design was made to match the 1950's and early 1960's Hallicrafters SX-111 Receiver, HT-37 Transmitter, HT-41 Linear Amplifier. This made the keyer look more matched to the SX-117, HT-44, SR-150, and SR-400 Receiver, Transmitter, and Transceivers.

If there are any electrical differences betgween the HA-1 and HA-1A, they are minor.

W9DYQ Photo

This HA-1 TO Keyer (above) is in use as this article is being written to run CW with a vintage Hallicrafters SR-400 Cyclone Transceiver at W9DYQ.

Another very well designed keyer from the time is the Eico (Electronic Instrument Company) Model 717.

Eico Model 717 Electronic Keyer – From 1966

W9MXQ Phono

This unit was introduced in 1966. Interesting to note is the styling resemblance to the National NCX-3 and NCX-5 of the same time.

The Model 717 Electronic Keyer was designed to match the popular, at the time, Eico 753 HF (80, 40, and 20 meter) SSB/AM/CW Transceiver. I assembled the 753 Transceiver, 751 AC Power Supply/Speaker, and 717 Electronic Keyer kits back in 1967. All three are long gone. That 717 Keyer was sold to a friend, Roger, K9VSK (a fellow Drake aficionado). Roger still has that unit. A short time after selling my 717, I regretted it being gone. I soon found a nicely wired one that had a burned-out power transformer. Finding that there was a perfectly matching Triad™ Transformer off the shelf that could be sourced, I bought the available 717 Electronic Keyer, the Triad transformer, and then repaired it (including finding the wiring error that had destroyed the original transformer. That unit is still with me, working fine. Considering the burned-out transformer background, I suspect that I was actually the first one to ever use this particular 717.

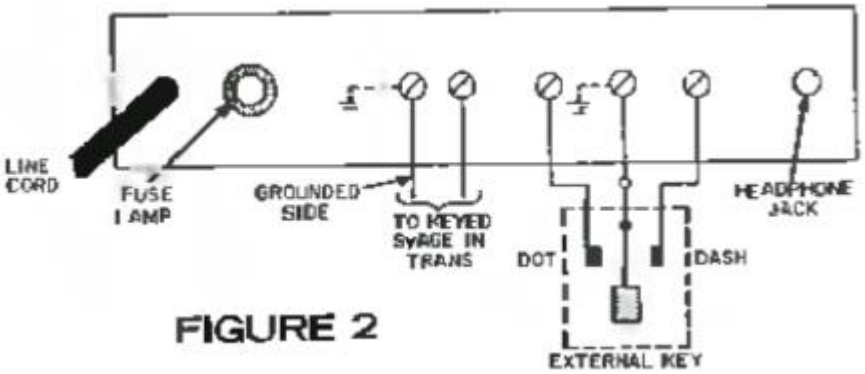
Eico Model 717 Electronic Keyer – Inside Chassis View

Front Panel to the Left – Note the paper covered brown cylindrical item at the upper right corner. That is a large coil with a reed keying relay at the center. The large transformer to the lower right is the AC power transformer.

W9MXQ Photo

The tube closest to the top plus the one just below and left of it are the two 12AU7 dual triodes used as the dot and dash generators. Those two are controlled by the heptode sections of the two ECH81 tubes, as logic gates, just to the left of the power transformer. The triode sections of those ECH81 heptodes are used as parts of the primary oscillator. The remaining tube, to the left in the picture, close to the speaker, is a 6CB6 Audio Amplifier. The Hallicrafters HA-1 and the Eico 717 are essentially similar in generating self-completing characters – but with minor circuit differences based on their engineers' design concepts.

Here is a rear panel view of the 717 Keyer showing the interconnections required for installation in the shack. This is Figure 2 in the Eico 717 Operating Manual.



Station and Paddle Connection Diagram – Eico Model 717 Electronic Keyer
Note the single lever paddle.
Figure 2, Eico Model 717 Operating Manual

The Eico Model 717 Electronic Keyer Operating Manual outlines a popular, at the time, procedure to wire a semi-automatic (Bug) key for use in controlling the Dot and Dash input lines to the Keyer. They suggested using a rubber band to keep the Dot side of the key from vibrating. Unlike today's total handholding instructions, the exact procedure was left to the enterprising ham operator. In 1966, they were up to the challenge!

In another one of those, "only a collector would care about that," vacuum tube issues, check this picture of a representative tube in the Eico Model 717:

As was described in the Hallicrafters HA-1 writeup, earlier, Eico also sourced its vacuum tubes as private label, "EICO" showing on the glass envelope. Not so common now, Eico equipment was once a common feature in many ham shacks. Their line of CW and AM/CW Transmitters are in use in many vintage radio shacks to this day. They were built with excellent, high-quality components based on good engineering.

W9MXQ Photo

In the 1960's there were other vacuum tube keyers available on the market. More of those lesser-known units can be part of a future article. Eldico made the EE-3 as far back as the 1950's, as one example.

The Eldico EE-3 Electronic Keyer (and the later EE-3A) were 1950's products from Eldico Electronics. They were much simpler circuits than the Hallicrafters HA-1 or the Eico 717 but were quite functions, from what remains of information on the product line.

Note that the enclosure includes the single lever paddle in this self-contained keyer product.

Boatanchor Manual Archive

The solid-state revolution that slowly overtook amateur radios began in the late 1950's. Remember that Hallicrafters had an all-solid state HF Transceiver (except for driver and final amplifier tubes) in the form of the FPM-200 Transceiver in 1961. Electronic Keyers would seem to be a logical (pardon the pun) extension of the available of solid-state devices.

In 1961, Hallicrafters introduced the HA-4 "Transistorized-TO" or "TTO" Keyer.

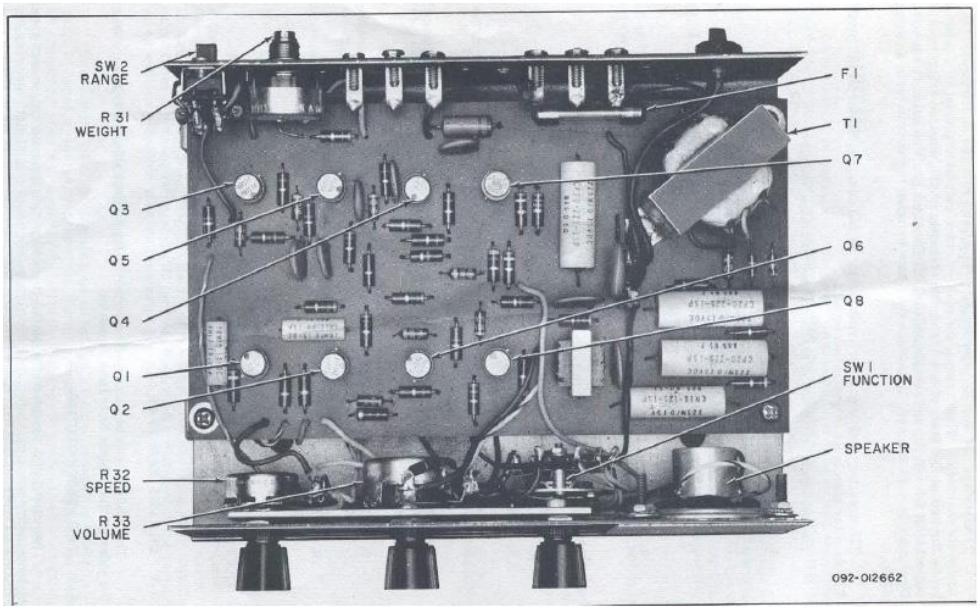
Hallicrafters HA-4 Electronic Keyer – From 1961

eBay

These little keyers are quite rare on the market – as are others of the time. Some early germanium based solid state circuits did not stand the test of time, so such units were scrapped long ago. That is a shame but seems to be reality. RF fields, static charges, and station grounding played heavily in damaging very delicate transistors of the time. I must comment, however, that many solid-state Hallicrafters circuits (with both silicon and germanium devices) remain to this day. For example, I regularly use a vintage

Hallicrafters SR-150 Transceiver that has a solid-state power supply and Varactor Diode Receiver Incremental Tuning (RIT) control that works like it did when new.

The Hallicrafters HA-4 used eight germanium transistors and ten germanium diodes in its circuitry. Circuit design was essentially a solid-state version of the original vacuum tube HA-1 version of this product. The HA-1, HA-1A, and HA-4 have similar resale value but the HA-1A and HA-4 products are rarely seen while the HA-1 seems abundant.

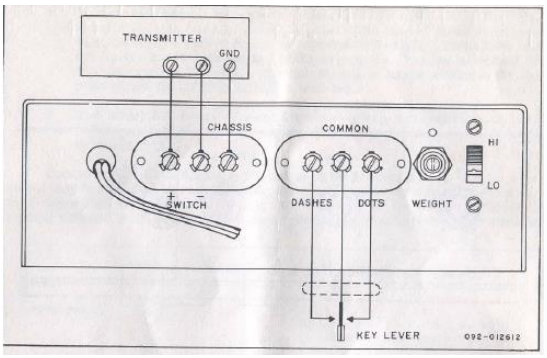


Hallicrafters HA-4 'TTO Keyer – Inside Chassis View

Front Panel to the Bottom – Note the power transformer at the upper right hand corner set at an angle to prevent interaction of its field with the circuitry.

Hallicrafters HT-4 Operating Manual

Connection of the HA-4 to the transmitter or transceiver is outlined here:



The rear panel of the HA-4 Keyer shows two terminal to connect to the KEY input on the station Transmitter or Transceiver. Note the polarity switch indicators ("+" and "-") to match the polarity of the internal switching transistor. No voltage capability is shown for keying voltage in the Hallicrafters Operating Manual. But the 2N398A keying transistor used tops out at 105 volts.

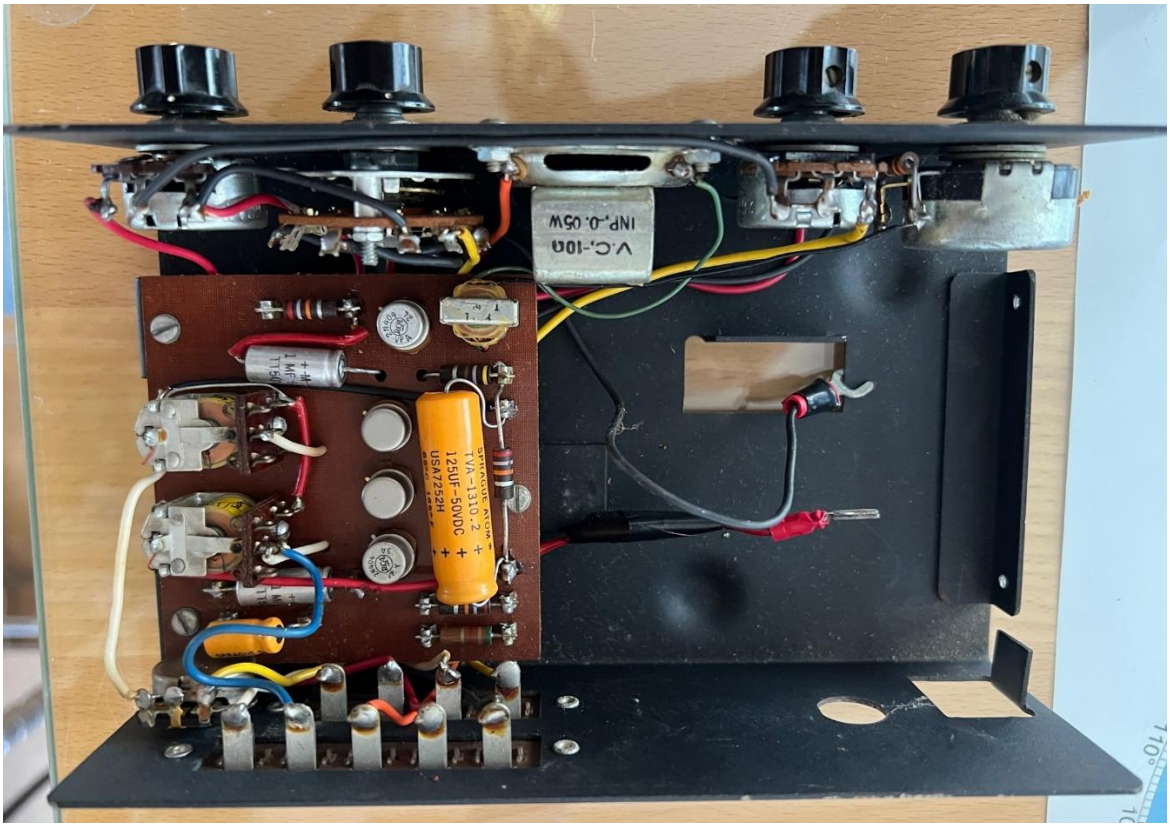
Hallicrafters HT-4 Operating Manual

Note the "HI" and "LO" switch at the right side of the rear panel. In "HI" the front panel SPEED control range is 16-50 words per minute. In "LO" the SPEED control range is 8-18 words per minute.

Another solid-state keyer of the time was the Hammarlund HK-1B Electronic Keyer introduced in 1964.

Hammarlund HK-1B Electronic Keyer – From 1964

W9MXQ Photo

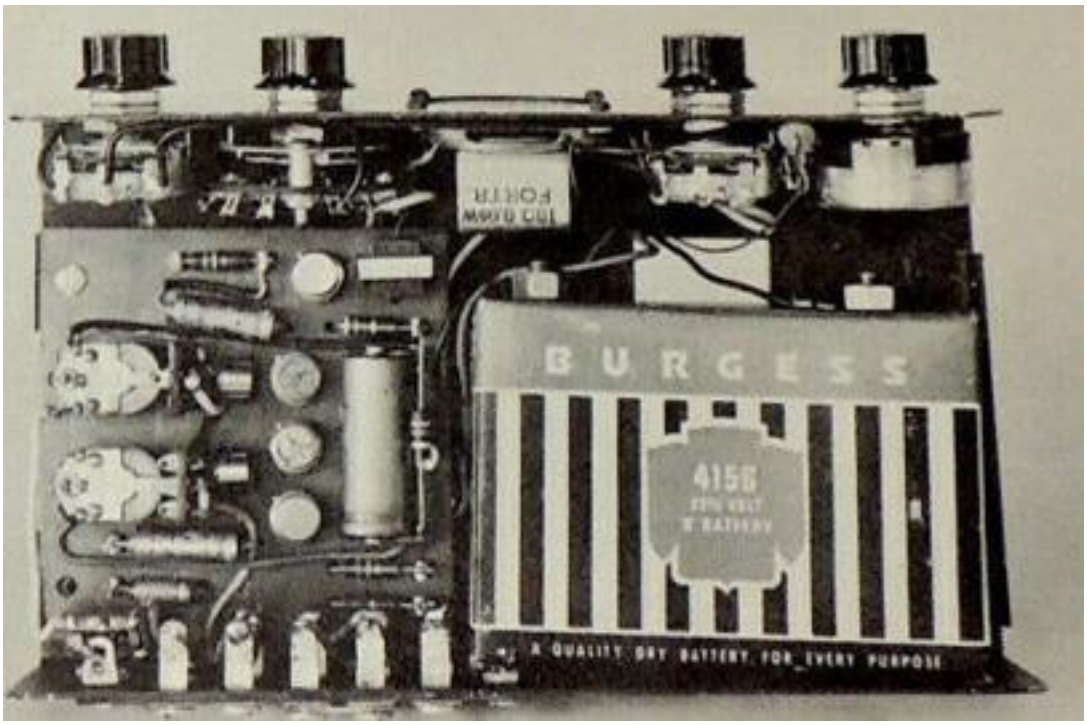


Hammarlund HK-1B Electronic Keyer – Inside Chassis View

Front Panel at the Top – Note small circuit board that contains virtually all electronics. The open space on the left is for the battery. No AC Power Supply was installed nor was one available from Hammarlund for the required 22.5 VDC requirement.

W9MXQ Photo

For reference, see below an internal view from the HK-1B Operating Manual that shows the required Burgess specified battery installed:



Hammarlund HK-1B Electronic Keyer – Inside Chassis View from the Hammarlund Operating Manual

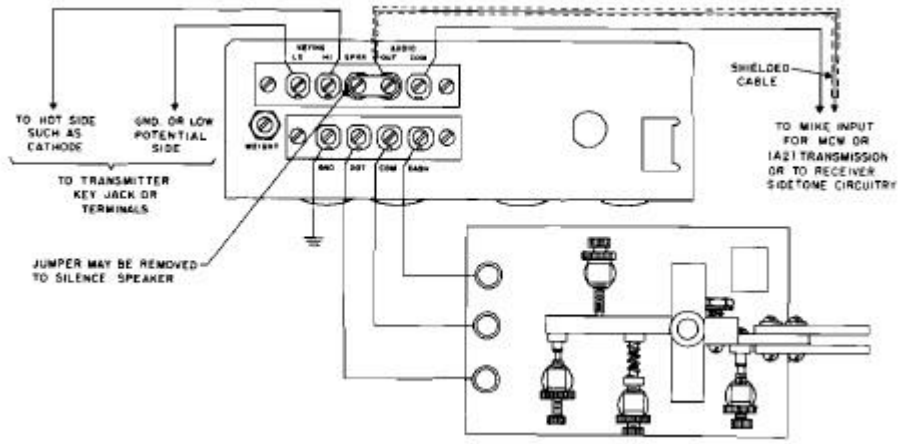
Note the now unobtainable Burgess 4156 “B” Battery – 22.5 VDC.

No explanation is available for the extra holes in the bottom and back panel in the area of the battery (see the internal picture without the battery installed) – as if Hammarlund had planned for an optional (or standard equipment) AC Power Supply. Burgess 4156 batteries (or other brand equivalents) are no longer available as fresh stock. Indeed, Burgess itself close its doors in 1989[4].

Powering the Hammarlund HK-1B Keyer became an issue – the requirement for 22.5 volts did not seem to be attainable other than to connect perhaps 15 AA batteries in series. Well, that was not going to be successful. The person who owned my HK-1B before my turn had supplied a 22.5 VDC wall wart power supply that was almost as big as the keyer and also it provided a very unstable voltage supply. It does seem that there are 22.5 VDC wall wart sized power supplies available to recharge 18 VDC rechargeable batteries used in cordless vacuum cleaners. I found stable, compact power supply with more than adequate current capability in the form of an Amazon™ sourced AC/DC Adapter. It has a published rating is 22.5 VDC at 500 mA[5]. Unlike the oversized power supply received with the unit, this unit was stable under load, and did not get warm after hours of operation. The little unit from Amazon produces a clean DC voltage when checked on an oscilloscope.

The circuit in the little Hammarlund Keyer is quite simple. It does not involve the use of multivibrator in its design. This keyer uses switched components to allow the character oscillator to run and different, but adjustable character lengths for dots and dashes. Keying output to the associated transmitter is a relay contact. That differs from the transistor switching in the Hallicrafters HA-4 TTO Keyer.

When first received, the Hammarlund Keyer was erratic in timing and was sometimes difficult to control in a QSO. That turned out to be tied to the inadequate power supply that came with the Keyer. Switching to the Amazon™ sourced power supply cleared the erratic operation.



Station and Paddle Connection Diagram – Hammarlund HK-1B Electronic Keyer
Note the single lever paddle.
Hammarlund HK-1B Operating Manual

As I mentioned above, I am a regular user of the Hallicrafters HA-1 TO Keyer. But I have used the Eico 717 Keyer and the Hammarlund HK-1B Keyer a good deal. The HK-1B was a bit uncomfortable until I sorted out the power supply issue. All are very similar in use. In all cases, I use a single paddle Vibroplex VibroKeyer much of the time with all non-iambic keyers. However, I am also known to use an iambic Bencher paddle as well.

Vibroplex VibroKeyer Paddle

Bencher BY-1B Iambic Paddle

W9MXQ Photos

I appreciate that you read my articles. Remember that I am open to questions and comments anytime at my email address, W9MXQ@TWC.com.

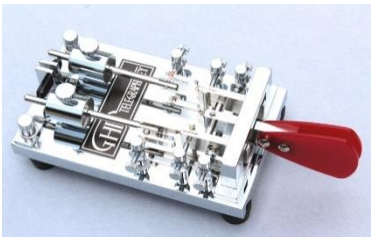
A special note of thanks to my proofreader, Bob Bailey, W9DYQ. Bob is a lot more than a proofreader as he nearly always adds commentary that makes it into the article.

Credits and Comments:

[1] Taken from the Operating Manual of the Hallicrafters HA-1 Electronic Keyer.
[2] Taken from the Operating Manual of the Yaesu FTdx-101MP Transceiver.
[3] The Hallicrafters HA-1 Operating Manual clearly differentiates between the 12AU7/5963 tubes and the 12AU7A tube. However, the manual also implied that the 12AU7A was an allowed substitute for the 12AU7/5963. My thinking is that the 12AU7/5963 may have been better suited in published specification for the duty of character generation.
[4] Burgess Battery Company was founded in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1917. It went out of business in 1989. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burgess_Battery_Company
[5] Available on Amazon for $16.99 as this is written. Search for "VHBW 22.5V AC/DC Adapter Replacement for UMLo Model V111 V111 Plus Charger 18.5V 4000mAh Lithium Li-ion Battery Cordless Stick Vacuum Cleaner Power Supply Charger."

Epilogue: There is a bit of terminology in any discussion of Morse Code Apparatus. That terminology involves the use of this list of words . . .

- Key (or Straight Key) – the mechanical device used to send CW.
- Bug – same as "Key" except that there is a mechanical spring generation of Dots.
- Keyer – An Electronic Device that generates and sends code characters.
- Paddle – the device used by the operator, with a keyer, to send Dots or Dashes.



Want some more terminology to confuse you? Here is a readily available, but custom order, Fully Automatic Bug. So, what is your guess? Is this a Paddle or a Keyer?

Don't lose a lot of sleep over this one. I doubt if there is a right answer!! GHD Keys (the maker) calls it, officially, a GHD GN-209W Autokey Bug.

Classified Advertising
For Sale & Wanted Items
Ozaukee Radio Club Members

de: Bill Shadid, W9MXQ

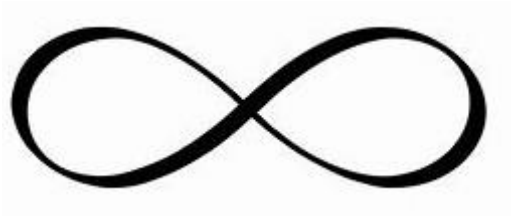
For Sale: Glen Martin roof top tower, model RT936. This is a 9-foot HEAVY DUTY anodized aluminum 4 legged roof tower! Included is a Yaesu TB25 thrust bearing, mounted on the top. It will take [I believe] a 1-3/4 inch mast, and tower has a rotor shelf just below the top. It is rated for a larger antenna, at 16 sq ft wind load. It is in very good condition. It has been stored outdoors but out of the wind. Looking for $500, contact W9GA on the ORC reflector, please!

Classified Advertising for Ozaukee Radio Club Members is a members only feature. (Members may post for non-member friends, however.) Contact advertiser for details. The Newsletter Editor has no knowledge of any sale items (unless he is the seller!!)..

Ozaukee Radio Club is not responsible for any purchases and cannot be involved in any buyer/seller agreements or disagreements – all sales are final other than what you work out between the buyer or seller.

Advertisements will be accepted up to the 10th of the month before Newsletter publication.

Advertising is for one month, only. Ads much be submitted each month by the deadline to be published.



Upcoming Events

de: Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY

1/06/2024 – MRAC 107th Anniversary Special Event Station
At Ham Radio Outlet, Milwaukee, WI
https://www.w9rh.org/special-event-station/

1/14/2024 – St. Charles, IL – Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs
Mid-Winter Hamfest
https://www.w9ccu.org/wordpressLimitless/hamfest/

1/27-28/2024 – Winter Field Day 2024 (Also see Page 8)
https://winterfieldday.org/

3/17/2024 – Jefferson, WI – Tri-County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
https://www.w9mqb.org/

4/27/2024 – Cedarburg, WI – Ozaukee Radio Club Spring Swapfest
https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/

Later, in his professional life, Flick suddenly remembers that day, back at Warren G. Harding Elementary School, in Hohman, Indiana, when Schwartz triple dog dared him to put his tongue on the flagpole.

Ozaukee Radio Club Minutes of Membership Meeting. 12/13/2023

de: Ken W9GA, Secretary

The monthly ORC meeting occurred at the senior center as we have returned to live in-person meetings, along with a streaming version held via Zoom. ORC President Bill K9GN began the meeting at 7:30 PM, with actual members attending, a go-around was conducted. Zoom attendees were also in attendance and were also introduced.

Program:

Gregg, W9DHI, presented an historical recounting of our 222 MHz repeater system, and the latest technical improvements to the system. Highlights included the description of the initial electronics, featuring a mix of manufacturers' radio and control modules. Current improvements are a rebuild of the module/radio components and rewiring on 'clean' panels to improve reliability. Also seen was a clear move towards good value in the electronics packages. Several questions were answered at the end, dealing with future cost savings, coverage, and performance of the system, including the inks to 146 MHz and 29 MHz.

50/50 Raffle: This was won by Bill AC9JV; winning an award of $16.00

Scholarship Auction: WB9RQR auctioned off items, including an AC tester, HDMI hub, and an RX kit.

Committee reports: [there were no STEM reports.] Bill, K9GN led off by announcing that the 2024 budget was complete, included was a $200 budget for 'swag' inventory.

1ST VP: Jeananne N9VSV: now on sale; ORC swag: cups, hats, badges. We also have programs through April 2024 scheduled.

RPT VP: Tom KC9ONY asked to allocate funds for a spare 222 radio; W9QLP moved and N9UUR 2nd a motion to allocate $150 for spares, motion carried. Tom also mentioned that a Tuesday night Net control operator is needed, and that some audio problems are being dealt with.

Treasurer: Gary N9UUR, noted our 2024 budget, members stand at 72, with additional family members, both hamfests have been profitable, and bills are current. Motion to accept made by W9QLP, 2nd by W9GA, and carried. Gary added that the audit committee is N9UUR, W9KEY, KC9FZK and W9QLP.

Hamfest: W9IPR will need approval to hold the fall SwapFest; a motion for approval was made by KC9FZK, 2nd by W9JI, and carried.

Secretary: W9GA reported that the November 2023 minutes have been posted, a motion to accept was made by W9IPR; 2nd by N9VSV and carried.

Tech: W9DHI and the committee is working on an upgrade of the voter system controller.

Nominating: W9JI will hold elections in January, the slate is set; do need a 2nd VP, see Pat.

No OLD business: No NEW business:

Adjournment: WB9RQR moved to adjourn, W9QLP 2nd, motion carried; time end was 8:50 PM. There were 21 in-person attendees, 18 zoom attendees.

Respectfully submitted;

Kenneth Boston W9GA, Secretary:

This Month's Meeting: January 10, 2024 - 7:30 PM

Program: Annual Meeting/Election of Officers

de: Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV

Instead of our monthly program, January brings our annual election of officers to the floor. Once the election is finished, and if there is time, we will have a round of trivia questions that we hope will generate some thought and conversation. As Agatha Christie's Belgian detective character, Hercule Poirot said "*If the little grey cells are not exercised, they grow the rust*." Assuredly, we amateur radio folk know the danger of rust. So, join us!

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

February 14, 2024, 7:30 PM
Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV
Amateur Radio-Related Philately (Stamp Collecting)

March 13, 2024, 7:30 PM
Dave Ellison, W7UUU
Dave is back to finish what he started telling us about rebuilding the shack that burned down. If you recall, Dave was forced to cancel his presentation twice, due to poor internet service. Now that the internet service has been greatly improved in his area, we hope the third time's the charm.

April 10, 2024, 7:30 PM
Vic Shier, WT9Q
Presentation on his 160m Dipole and 80m Fan Dipole Antennas.

Creating a Presentation

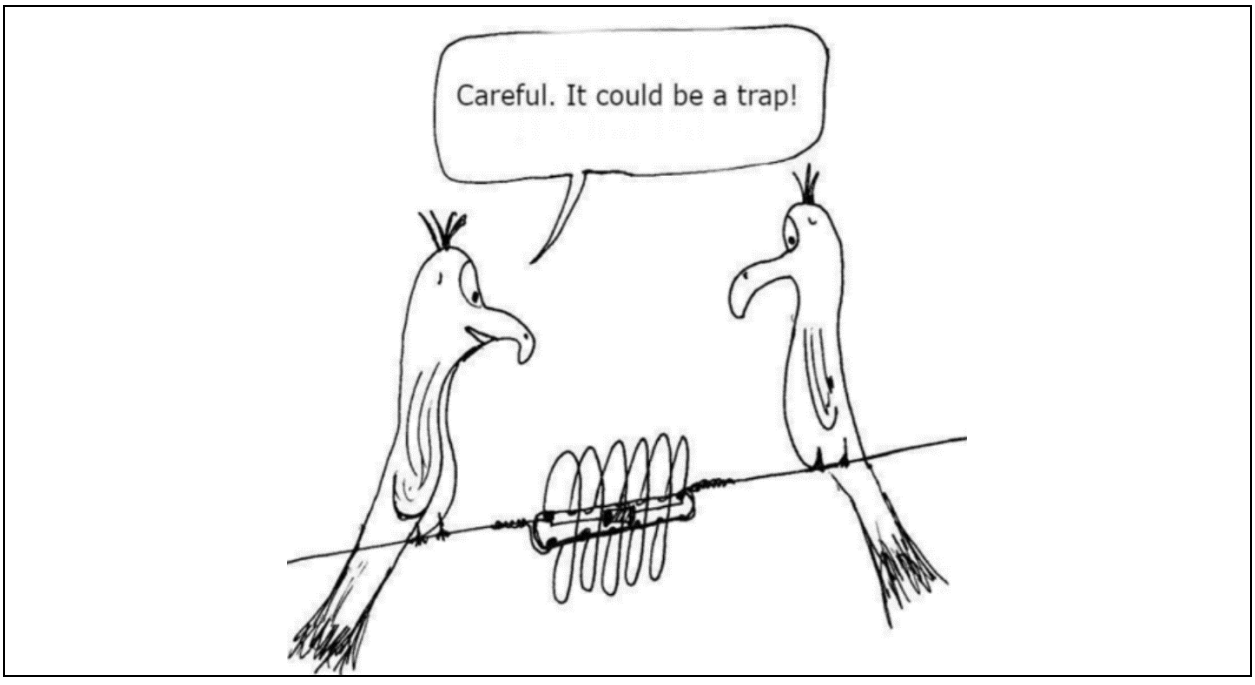
The monthly program is the highlight of the Ozaukee Radio Club meeting. We are fortunate to have many talented people in our club, many of whom have shared their knowledge through a presentation. Programs can be on any ham radio-related topic. Please consider sharing some of your experiences with the rest of us. If you have an idea and would like some help putting a program together, contact me at 1stvp@ozaukeeradioclub.org.

We are also currently in need of a member to chair the programming committee. If you have any programming experience or think you would enjoy coordinating our monthly meeting programs, please let me or any of the board members know.

ORC Meeting Agenda

10 January 2024

1. 7:15 – 7:30 PM
   Check-In and Introductions
2. 7:30 PM Call to Order:
   President Bill Greaves (K9GN)
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming Events, etc.
4. Annual Meeting
   Election of Officers
5. President's Update:
   Bill Greaves (K9GN)
6. 1st VP Report:
   Jeananne Bargholz (N9VSV)
7. Repeater VP Report:
   Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY)
8. Secretary's Report:
   Ken Boston (W9GA)
9. Treasurer's Report:
   Gary Bargholz (N9UUR)
10. Committee Reports
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
13. Adjournment



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This Month's ORC Meeting
Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Meeting
10 January 2024

Program:
Annual Meeting
Election of Officers

7:00 PM – Doors Open
7:15-7:30 PM – Zoom Check-In
7:30 PM – Meeting Begins

NEXT MONTH
Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Meeting
14 February 2024

Program:
Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV
Amateur Radio-Related Philately (Stamp Collecting)