



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 XXVI

January, 2007

Number 1

The Prez Sez

By Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR))

It's the end of the year and time to reflect on what we have accomplished as a club during 2006. As I look back, it's pretty impressive.

Membership:

We have grown in numbers throughout the year and are presently at an all time high of over 130. In addition, Mark Tellier (AB9CD) has instituted an "Elmering Session" prior to the membership meeting, which has proven to be quite successful. While we try to introduce all new members through the newsletter we have missed a few and still need a Membership Chairman to assure new members are made to feel welcome and get involved.

Meetings:

Meeting attendance has been consistently between 35 and 40 and that is probably due to the monthly auctions hosted by Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) and the quality programs organized by Leon Rediske (K9GCF).

Youth Programs:

This important activity got off the ground this year with Mike Yugas (KC9GDV) organizing a seminar at which about 60 Boy Scouts earned their Communications merit badge. We had additional involvement with the Scouts by assisting LAFROG group with their hosting of the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). In addition, thanks to Bill Howe III (KA9WRL), Tom Murtaugh (W9VBQ), Mike Matthies (WJ9O) and Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR) we had two "HAM" radio demonstrations at local elementary schools on their "opportunity days" event.

Contesting:

We again placed third in the nation in the Class 5A under the leadership of Leon Rediske (K9GCF), However, we have to be aware that the 4th place club had more contacts but only 350 fewer points than ORC – we best not rest on our laurels. One of the great improvements was the new towers designed and fabricated by Mark Potash (KC9GST). Thanks Mark. In addition we are now tutoring members in contesting and starting to "contest" as a club in such events as the Wisconsin QSO Party, in which we earned 4th place, under the guidance of Bob Truscott (W9LO).

Public Service:

Again, the ORC provided assistance with parade lineup and communications for the Port Washington Fish Days parade and the Grafton Christmas parade. In addition, we provided communications for the Saukville River Clean-up project. It is also significant that about 30 of the OZARES 34 members are ORC members.

Scholarship Program:

We can be proud that we finally reached a point (\$20,000) where the scholarship fund can be self-supporting at a 5% interest rate. Special credit goes to Ed Rate (AA9W) who has managed the sale of all donated equipment via swapfests and eBay. It may take a bit more should CD rates fall back to 4%. It was also pleasing to accept a \$1000 donation from the William Stark Jones trust fund. This trust fund donation is an another first.

Social Events:

As always, the Post Everything Party chaired by Tom Nawrot with a committee of 5 and the Cornroast chaired by Ed Frac were terrific events.

Swapfests:

We again hosted a profitable May swapfest and held our first outdoor swapfest in September. We continue to learn how to have fun hosting these events while still making money for the ORC operating fund and for the scholarship fund through donated equipment sales.

Treasury:

Again, we end the year with more money than when we started —what more can be said.

While the preceding summarizes the clubs obvious accomplishments, it is perhaps the camaraderie, friendships and personal growth that develops as we get involved in the various club projects and events that is most important. After all, the radios help us communicate and we grow in our knowledge of theory and practice but it is our relationships within the group that are most important. It's been a great year. Get involved and have some fun.

Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

I've always suspected that antennas might be important to testers on 10 meters, and now I have conclusive evidence that that is the case. I've been working on a long term research project for about the last 10 years, and reached an inescapable conclusion on Dec. 8. They are important. In the interest of accuracy I figured it was important to use the same antenna each year in the ARRL 10 Meter contest. I chose the vertical which happened to be standing up in the back yard, just why, I don't remember, but it was. I was pleasantly surprised when I was able to work 400-500 stations without putting out a full effort---heck, I was playing with the big boys, and it was fun. I didn't expect to win, but then I never do. Then as the research continued the fun started going down hill each year and hit rock bottom on Dec. 8. I had only 1 contact in the 10 Meter contest that day, and that was with W9XT, who lives just a little ways down the road. I heard lots of people working lots of other people, but Gary was the only one who would talk to me. Now what could have caused my vertical to deteriorate in the slow manner

that it did? Could one of you antenna experts out there come over and fix the darn thing for me. Or maybe I should just be patient for a few more years and let it heal itself.

I went down to AES a few days before Christmas to do some last minute shopping, and found W9KHH behind the counter where I always find him, at which time he told me that I had forgotten to list his CWSS score in the last newsletter. He was right. 210 Qs, 69 sections, 28,980 score. Sorry about that, Ray. However he paid a price for pointing out my error. I didn't buy the \$10,000.00 ICOM rig that I was thinking about. In fact, we never even got around to talking about the price. I just bought a license manual and left.

Reported scores:

CQ WW-CW K9CAN 190 Qs,542 QSO Points, 67 Countries, 22 Zones, 40,108 Pts. (Sorry Dick, it came in too late for last month's newsletter.)

ARRL 10 Meter Contest

W9XT CW-376 Qs, 62 Mults
SSB-195 Qs, 50 Mults
Score 212,128

W9LO CW-1 Q, 1 Mult.
Score- 4.0000000

ARRL 160 Meter Contest

W9XT 570 Qs, 65 Mults, 74,295 Pts.
W9LO 300 Qs, 52 Mults, 31,200 Pts.
WI9M 54 Qs, 25 Mults, 2,700 Pts.

Coming up in January

Jan. 13-14 North American QSO Party-CW
Rules in Jan. QST, page 97

Jan. 20-22 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
Rules in Jan. QST, page 97

Jan. 20-21 North American QSO Party
phone Rules in Jan QST, page 97

Jan. 27-27 CQ WW 160 Meter Contest
Rules in Jan. QST, page 98

Have fun contesting,

Bob, W9LO

NASA Scientists Predict Big Solar Cycle

(extracted from the NASA website)

Dec. 21, 2006: Evidence is mounting: the next solar cycle is going to be a big one.

<http://antwrrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap060807.html>

Solar cycle 24, due to peak in 2010 or 2011 "looks like its going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago," says solar physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Space Flight Center. He and colleague Robert Wilson presented this conclusion last week at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco.

According to their analysis, the next Solar Maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160 plus or minus 25. This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past fifty years—which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history.

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/21dec_cycle24.htm?list190253

Elections at Jan. Meeting

De Vic Shier, KB9UKE

Elections will be at the January 10th annual meeting. Your dues must be paid at that time to be entitled to vote. Under new business there will be an election for each position thus allowing for nominations from the floor. Nominations from the floor are welcomed. The Nominating Committee is composed of Vic Shier (KB9UKE), Kent Christiansen (N9WH) and Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR). As of this time the committee is nominating the following members as candidates for the 2007 Board:

Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)-President
Mike Yuhás (KC9GDV)-1st Vice President
Bill Howe (KA9WRL) – 2nd Vice President
John Schrader (W9NRG) – Repeater VP
Nels Harvey (WA9JOB) – Treasurer
Nancy Stecker (KC9FZK) - Secretary

Tips,Tails & Tools

Oldham has a metal (stud) cutting blade for your 10" table saw. It cost about \$30 and really works great on aluminum panel stock. It is available at Menards.

Upcoming Events

Don't forget, swapfest at the Waukesha Expo Center on Saturday, Jan. 6th

- 1st Straight Key Night
- 6th WARAC Swapfest at Waukesha
- 6th-7th ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 6th-7th CQ WW RTTY Contest
- 7th Kids Day
- 10th Membership Meeting**
- 13th-14th North American SSB QSO Party
- 13th-14th 070 PSK Fest
- 20th-21nd North American ph QSO Party
- 20th-21nd ARRL January VHF Contest
- 27th-28th CQ WW 160 Meter Contest
- ? Board Meeting

Club Static

Our condolences to Jon Gilmore (KB9RHZ) whose father passed away in December at the age of 95.

Don't forget, our January 10th meeting is not only elections but it is **Homebrew night**. Remember to bring one of your home brew projects for all to see – simple or complex, electronic or mechanical, we want to see it.

Remember, **Post Everything Party on March 3rd** Reservation form on page 9.

Just Another Shack

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

Gary Sharbuno (WI9M) has been an ORC member since 1962 and a "HAM" for more than 40 years. It all started with his climbing the trees and roofs for his Elmer, Ed Bach (WA9BMA) in

Belgium WI. In return he tutored Gary in the code and theory and Gary earned his Novice license as a sophomore in high school. His original call was WN9JJA.

Upon graduating from high school in 1966 Gary joined the US Coast Guard and trained as a Radio Operator. In 1967, while at radio school in Groton CT he earned his General Class ticket (at 40 words of code per minute) and received the call of WA9UJK. He was subsequently stationed at Travis City MI, Alaska, Philippine Islands and finally at Two Rivers WI.



Gary (WI9M) at home with his Kenwood TS850S while listening to Ron Yokes (W9BCK) on the 3.860 MHz informal net.

Upon discharge from the Coast Guard, Gary used his GI bill to study broadcasting at MATC. During this time he earned his Advanced ticket in 1972. The broadcasting training earned him a position on the Channel 10/36 staff where he spent 30+ years before retiring in June, 2006. Some of his favorite memories include his trips to South Africa, Great Britain and Canada with the "Tracks Ahead" program and throughout Wisconsin with the "Outdoor Wisconsin" program. He claims that in the "Outdoor Wisconsin" programs he sometimes caught more fish than the fishermen being featured and had to give up his catch to those featured for the good of the program.

During the '80's Gary was assisting Mickey Dogan with FCC testing and assumed full responsibility for the W5YI testing in 1985. Originally

(the first 10 years) the testing was conducted in St. Nick's grade school followed by another 6 years at AES. He claims that he probably tested over half the ORC membership during this period and had the assistance of many ORC members conducting the test program for the "amateur" community. While involved in this program he earned his Extra class license and applied for a 2 X 1 call. He then received his current call of WI9M. He retired from this testing activity in 2003 but many of his ORC assistants, whom he trained, remain active with the MRC testing program.



Gary is an invaluable CW operator at the annual ORC Field Day event at Lazy Days Campground.

Gary is very active in contesting and enjoys phone, CW and PSK-31. Among his favorite contests are the "sweepstakes" and the Wisconsin QSO Party. His main rig at home consists of a Kenwood TS850S transceiver, MFJ989C antenna tuner, AL-80 amplifier and Yaesu rotor turning a Mosley TA53 beam. He is using EQF software for his logging.

They (wife Barbara – Novice KA9PZH) also have a trailer cabin at the Dells and spend weekends there during the spring and summer. While there he uses a Kenwood TS430 transceiver, MFH Intellituner, dipole and longwire antenna to maintain his "on the air" status.

He has yet a third Kenwood rig (TS440) that he uses when they hook up the "pop-up" camper and head for the North Woods.



The antenna farm consists of a 40' tower, Mosley TA-53, Carolina Windom, G5RV and inverted L on HF and a dual band diamond on VHF/UHF.

They have two daughters, Lynn and Windy, one of which married a HAM (Neil, KB9LSO).

Gary is also active in FISTS (a CW group), QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association), Elks Lodge #46 and the Milwaukee Broadcasters Club.

FCC Drops Code

de Mike Yuhas, KC9GDV

It's either the death of amateur radio as we know it, or the best thing that's happened since sliced bread. Unless you've been on a Dxpedition to Ouagadougou (grid square IK92fi), you know that the Federal Communications Commission last month issued a Report and Order that eliminates the Morse code testing requirement across all classes of amateur radio licenses.

Many of us saw changes coming, though fewer could have predicted the extent of the Commission's action. In July 2003, the International Telecommunication Union, meeting in Geneva, declared that it would thenceforth be up to individual countries' administrators (i.e., regulatory agencies such as the FCC) to determine if Morse proficiency would be a requirement to amateur licensure. Two years later, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking under Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Docket 05-235, and invited public comments. Over 3,900 persons from across the land shared their viewpoints with the FCC. The Commission apparently took citizen comments to heart, as many were referenced within the Order. At least four ORC members commented: Gary J. Sharbuno WI9M; James L. Albrinck; Jeff Kane; and Mike Yuhas, KC9GDV.

There are no changes to written examination requirements. Technicians must still pass the Element 2 test; Generals must pass Element 3; and Amateur Extra operators must pass Element 4. However, there will be slight adjustments in operating privileges to current Technician licensees. They will be able to operate HF as follows: 3,525-3,600 kHz (CW only); 7,025-7,125 kHz (CW); 21,025-21,200 kHz (CW); 28,000-28,300 kHz (CW, RTTY and data); and 28,300-28,500 kHz (CW and SSB). Isn't it ironic that so-called "no-code" technicians may now operate CW in four HF segments?

The Report and Order makes entertaining and enlightening reading (see http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmat/ch/FCC-06-178A1.pdf). The changes go into

effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, which is expected shortly – perhaps by the time you read this.

Dues are Due

It's time to pay dues for the 2007 year. Forms can be downloaded from our website or be found at the end of the December, 2006 newsletter. Dues are \$15 for regular members.

A Helping mic Hand

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

I really wanted one of the \$89 mic extension arms made by Heil Audio . It would be so great for contesting and Field Day but well you know how that goes. Then I noticed a lamp on an extension arm at a rummage sale for only \$1 and it looked a little like the Heil unit. Remove the lamp and add a \$6 mike holder from Radio Shack and I would save \$82.

But as luck would have it, the MD-100 mike for my FT-1000 MP has a short cord to the base which means I would have to buy a new longer cord and use my foot PTT switch – it was getting too complicated and expensive.

Then I realized that I could just fabricate a platform and set the entire mic and base on it. Then I would have the option of using the mic PTT or foot operated PTT while not having to bend forward to speak or hold the mic continuously.

I had some scrap aluminum and went to work on the platform. Once completed I noted that the upper springs were too weak to support the mic and stand. Then it was off to True Value to purchase a #194 spring for \$3.90 which was long enough to cut in half making two springs of adequate strength to hold the platform and mic.

Works great and I saved \$84.10 – if you don't count the \$30 spent for the special metal cutting saw blade used to cut the aluminum.



The converted articulated lamp arm holding the MD-100 microphone and stand.

The



Column

By Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), Column Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS TRUCK (MCT)

UPDATE: Ray (N9PBY) and Stan continue work on the truck most Monday evenings. We have added cigarette lighter plugs as power outlets to permit cell phone recharging, replaced a burned out halogen bulb in one of the outside floodlights, and other various tweaks and fixes. Jack (N9SFG), Leon (K9GCF) and Tom (W9IPR) pulled the (big, heavy) generator out of the vehicle, and it is now on the bench at the boat shed waiting for scheduled repairs.

Remember that Rusty Kapela of the NWS will hold **SEVERE WX TRAINING** on 22 March at the Justice Center. Mark your calendars!

The **147.33 MHz Repeater** has been giving us problems. While the machine works in all other ways, the audio has been dropping out, effectively taking us off the air. While this has happened from time to time over the years, this November and December the problem became severe. At this writing, Nels (WA9JOB) and Duane (the Justice Center radio tech) have switched controllers between the 147.33 and 443.525 MHz machines (they are identical). If the 2m repeater shows no future problems and problems pop up on 70 cm, we know the prob-

lem is in the controller. Thereafter, the guys can home in and fix it. Alternatively, we know the problem is in the repeater itself, and again, they can home in and fix it. Either way, the problem is not long for this world.

When you are scheduled as NCO, please **check the machine** – a simple voice ID by you and a listen for the courtesy tone is all that is needed to make sure the repeater is working. If the repeater is not working, simply move to the ORC machine on 146.97 MHz to run the net.

Remember, there is a long-standing agreement between the ORC and OZARES that one group can use the other repeater whenever one is down. We have done that a number of times over the years with perfect success. This wonderful cooperative arrangement is like each organization having two repeaters.

Those who are not NCO but are going to participate in an OZARES net at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, listen. If you hear nothing on the frequency and the repeater seems to be down, simply move to the ORC repeater and you should find everyone there. **This should be automatic and is part of the OZARES SOP** (yes, it is in the manual!).

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE: OZARES nets are held each Thursday at 8:00 p.m., except on meeting nights (4th Thursdays). Both a net script and check-in list can be obtained on the OZARES web site, www.ozares.org. If you are scheduled for NCO duty and cannot make it, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Check the complete schedule on the web site for possible hams to trade dates with. Guests are welcome after the OZARES check-ins are complete, especially ORC members!

04 Jan	KA9DDN
11 Jan	K9DXT
18 Jan	KC9FZK
25 Jan	Meeting

01 Feb	N9WH
08 Feb	KC9GDV
15 Feb	KC9GSS
22 Feb	Meeting

01 Mar	KC9GST
08 Mar	K9GCF

15 Mar	WD9HOD
22 Mar	Meeting (WX)

ORC Regular Meeting December 13, 2006

De Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK

The Elmering session began at 7:00 p.m. with Mark (AB9CD) explaining and demonstrating the use of different types of keys, paddles and code oscillators. Gary (W9XT) and Bill (KA9WRL) also brought equipment to show and demonstrate.

President Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR) called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Announcements etc: Paul (KC9JJU) is working as a Winlink 2000 programmer for the national project. Gary (WI9M) hosted a group of ORC members at an Elks Club fish fry and plans to do it again. Gregg (W9DHI) reminded members to pay attention to the new band plan. Mark (AB9CD) mentioned an upcoming contest and Tom (W9IPR) had flyers announcing Waukesha's 35th Annual Midwinter Swapfest to be held January 6, 2007. He also showed the 12 VDC Resistive Load Box described in last month's newsletter.

Auction: Stan (WB9RQR) held an auction of interesting equipment and other donated material.

Business Meeting

The Chair entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting as printed in the ORC Newsletter. Mike (KC9GDV) made the motion; Gary (WI9M) seconded it, the motion passed.

The Chair entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as printed and distributed to the members. That motion was made by Stan (WB9RQR), seconded by Kent (N9WH), the motion passed.

Repeater Report: Nels (WA9JOB) said the repeaters were fine and reminded the members of the Tuesday night net on the 146.970 MHz frequency.

OZARES Report: Jack (N9SFG) reported on the Mobile Communications Truck. Jack, Leon (K9GCF) and Tom (W9IPR) have been working on the repairs to the generator, and Stan (WB9RQR) explained the capabilities of the MCT. He and Ray (N9PBY) have been working on it most Monday nights.

Committee Reports:

Uniform: Ed (AA9WW) is organizing the information for jackets and hats in time for spring.

Name Tags: Dave (N9UNR) asked for names and call signs of members that need a nametag. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Elmering: Mark (AB9CD) held a session on Morse code equipment tonight, and is looking for ideas for future meetings.

Membership: The president needs a chairperson for the Membership Committee who will be responsible for creating an information packet to be given out to new members.

Youth: Bill (KA9WRL) spoke of a Boys/Girls Club in the Milwaukee area that needs someone to organize a ham club. Mark (AB9CD) will pass the information on to a Milwaukee area group.

PEP: Ted (KB9RLI) announced the date for the PEP would be March 3, 2007 at the Grafton Legion Hall.

Training: Tom (W9VBQ) will have a beginner's code class before the Tuesday night net and a second class after the net for those planning to take the test. Tom (W9IPR) will start a six-session Technician Class course beginning January 13.

Nomination: Vic (KB9UKE) reminded the group that dues must be paid in order to vote in the January election. The slate was published

in the December ORC Newsletter. Nominations from the floor will be welcomed.

Scholarship: Ed (AA9W) reported the Scholarship Fund has almost reached the self-sustaining target of \$20,000. This amount will earn enough interest to pay for a yearly \$1,000 scholarship. He listed options for future donations to the club and asked for opinions from the floor. Discussion followed.

50/50 drawing: Mark (AB9CD) had the winning ticket and donated his winning to the Scholarship Fund.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Bill (KA9WRL) explained that about five years ago, the Le Frog Club had been invited to do a demonstration of ham radio at a large Boy Scout Camporee on the EAA grounds. He made a motion to have the Ozaukee Radio Club join the Le Frog Club if asked to repeat the demonstration next year. Gregg (W9DHI) seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Attendance: Ed AA9WW, Kent N9WH, Jim K9QLP, Stan WB9RQR, Jack N9SFG, Tom W9IPR, Leon K9GCF, Naomi KC9GSS, Mike KC9GDV, Nancy KC9FZK, Roger W9UVV, Mark AB9CD, Mark KC9GST, Dick AB0VF, Kate KB0SIO, Paul KC9JJU, Gary W9XT, Ken W9GA, Bill KA9WRL, Tom W9VBQ, Ray W9KHH, Ray W9BUJ, Gary WI9M, Chuck WA9POU, Ron W9BCK, Gregg W9DHI, Bernie AA9CI, John W9NRG, Herb WA9UVK, Robert N9NRK, Terry KA9RFM, Dave N9UNR, Ed AA9W, Nels WA9JOB, Vic KB9UKE, Ted KB9RLI and guests Marc N9ZF and Gene KB9VJP.

Adjournment: Gregg (W9DHI) moved to adjourn, seconded by Dave (N9UNR), motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Nancy Stecker (KC9FZK) Secretary

Ozaukee Radio Club
Post Everything Party

Saturday March 3, 2007

**American Legion
Rose-Harms Post #355**

1540 13th Ave.
Grafton, WI 53024

Cocktails

6:00 to 7:00pm

Dinner at 7:00pm

Cost: \$16.00 per person

includes Meal, Tax and Gratuity

Buffet Menu

!!!!!! Reservations required by February 23th !!!!!

Don't forget to bring an exchange gift
(some of your favorite "junk" ???)

2007 ORC Post Everything Party Reservation Form

!!!!!! Reservations required by February 23th !!!!!

Callsign _____ Number attending ____ X \$16.00 = _____

Names of those attending _____

Send this completed form **with your check** made out to Ozaukee Radio Club to:

Tom Nawrot
10335 N. Grasslyn Road
Mequon, WI 53092

AGENDA

January 10th, 2007

1. Call to order – Tom (W9IPR)
2. Introductions.
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
4. Program: Homebrew Project Presentations
5. Fellowship Break
6. Auction.
7. Acceptance of Minutes
8. Treasurer's report – Tom (AA9XK).
9. Repeater report – Nels (WA9JOB)
10. Committee reports.
Membership –

Youth Program –

Post Everything Party -

11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS

Elections: (Vic Shier, KB9UKE)

President – Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR

1st VP – Mike Yuhas, KC9GDV

2nd VP – Bill Howe III, KB9WRL

Rptr. VP – John Schrader, W9NRG

Secretaru – Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK

Treasurer – Nels Harvey – WA9JOB

13. Adjournment to ?

Return undeliverable copies to

The ORC Newsletter

465 Beechwood Drive
Cedarburg WI* 53012

First Class

Next ORC Meeting

Grafton Senior Citizens Center

1665 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, January 10th , 2007

7:30 PM