



# The *ORC Newsletter*

Official publication of the Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc. Mail all contributions to the editor, Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, 465 Beechwood Dr., Cedarburg WI 53012 (phone 262 377-6945). Permission to reprint articles published in any issue is granted provided the author and the Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter are credited.



ORC Repeaters on 146.97, 224.18 and 443.750 MHz -

Callsign W9CQO

Web site: [www.ozaukeeradioclub.org](http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org)

Volume XXVIII

August, 2009

Number 8

## From the President

De Bill Howe II (KA9WRL)

How did you become a HAM? Once you got your license, was there someone that helped you through the vast selection of equipment choices? Offered some advice on putting up your first antenna? Or, maybe even introduced you to a Hamfest?

From time to time, the ORC gets calls from newly licensed Hams, and Hams that are new to the Milwaukee area. These people need a helping hand to steer them in the right direction. Anyone remember the "Welcome Wagon"? These people would welcome you to the neighborhood when you moved in. They'd make sure you knew where the grocery store and pharmacy were; give you the name and number of a reliable handyman and all the resources you could need to be comfortable in your new home. Like the US Marines: We're looking for a few good men (and women, please) to make themselves available to guide newcomers.

Here's where you get to help: If you have any expertise, or maybe you're just friendly, we would like to add you to a list of contact people. When a newcomer comes to our attention, we will ask you to contact them and welcome them. Dave Barrow, N9UNR, has volunteered to take this on already, but cannot be expected to do it all alone. I, of course, will do my part, but I suspect there are many others in the ORC who would like to see the club grow in numbers as well as resources.

73!

Bill, KA9WRL

## Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

The NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY (NAQP) CW was on Aug. 1. Fie on me for not making a noise about it in the July newsletter. I was in my "field day recovery mode" for several days, and just failed to get it done. Sorry about that. Anyway, it is one of my favorite contests and I had a great time for 10 hours. I was happy with the results, but would have been happier if I had a real 160 M antenna instead of the random wire that I used. Gotta do something about that one of these days. The only real disappointment was that I didn't work a single ORC member----guess that was my own fault.

The good news is that the SSB version of the NAQP will be on Aug. 15. It starts at 1:00 PM, local time and runs until 1:00 AM on Aug. 16. You may work 10 hours during that time. Get the rules at [www.ncjweb.com](http://www.ncjweb.com). The bad news is that the corn roast is also on Aug. 15. But all that means is that some of us will be a little late in starting the contest.

Hope to see you all at both events.

## CONTESTING TRIVIA

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

During the recent NAQP CW contest I found something to add to my list of things that contesters should never do. It's quite common for CW contesters to abbreviate the CQ message at appropriate times by simply sending the contest name and their call. For example, NA W9LO, or FD W9LO, etc. That works just fine unless your call happens to have an NA prefix and you are working the NAQP. Then it comes out NA NA9XYZ, but it appeared in the call sign

field on my computer as NANA9XYZ, which made it very unhappy and cost the guy a contact. I wonder if he ever figured out that he was shooting himself in the foot. Rule #309: Eliminate confusion by making your messages short and easy to copy. You'll get more answers that way.

## VHF & UHF Corner

De Todd Sprinkmann (KC9BQA)

The 6 meter DX season is fading away now. The best times for Sporadic E skip propagation are from May-July, with a definite peak in June/July. There may still be some openings in August, but they will tend to be shorter and less intense.

The good news is that we're heading into the best time of year for better conditions on higher bands like 2m, 1.25cm and 70cm. So far this summer, we've had abnormally cool and dry weather. This has really limited the number of good openings. DX or skip on the higher bands usually occurs with stagnant periods of hotter weather, when high pressure is parked overhead, or just to our east.

It just so happens that longer-range weather maps are showing potential for summer-like weather, and a better chance for nights and early mornings with better propagation. If you want to reach out a few hundred miles or more on 2m, or higher bands, here's some websites to keep track of. The first is:

<http://www.mountainlake.k12.mn.us/ham/aprs/p ath.cgi?map=na>

This map shows real-time paths between APRS stations on 2m. The past few days, the orange/red areas are expanding. The second link is:

<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>

These maps show \*forecasted\* conditions. As with weather forecasts, they aren't 100% accurate. However, just about any big opening where VHF'ers are working beyond the usual

100-300 mile range is indicated by wide areas of green or yellow or even orange on these maps.

I'm writing this article on Wed. 8/5, and for the past two days, these maps have forecasted a large opening for Sunday. When you use this website, know that the forecasts are updated daily about 1pm, so refresh for the latest info.

A third website is where you can view chat about actual contacts across the USA.

<http://dxworld.com/144prop.html>

It gets only sporadic use day-to-day, but during a big opening, you will see a definite increase in spots.

If you have any questions or want more info, feel free to email me – [sprinkies@excel.net](mailto:sprinkies@excel.net) or ask the questions on the ORC Yahoo reflector. That reflector doesn't get nearly enough use, so don't be afraid to discuss ham radio on it!

The next VHF/UHF contest of note is the ARRL Sept. VHF QSO Party

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sepvhf.html>

This is on Sept 12-13, and runs from 1pm Sat. until 10pm Sun. Operate as little or as much as you like on all bands from 6m on up. I'm also willing to help with any contesting questions you might have on the VHF/UHF side of things.

My weekly SSB net continues on Wed. nights. The best option for ORC members is 144.250 at 8:30pm. This net tends to get the most check-ins from SE WI and NE ILL.

Thursday is FM net night on 146.43 simplex, also starting at 8:30pm. I host these nets as an individual – the only purpose is to create activity on less-used portions of 2m. All are welcome to check in or listen along.

If you have an interest in VHF/UHF, remember to visit my website frequently. I update it 3-4 times a week with all the info you read here,

plus more. If you visit a few times a week, you'll get fresh content you won't find anywhere else. The address is <http://www.kc9bqa.com>

## ORC Special Event Station -

August 15 and 16 de AA9XK

We are going to use our new VISITORS WELCOME signs again during the Port Washington Maritime Heritage Festival. The club will operate Saturday (the same day as the Corn Roast) and Sunday. We asked for a spot with a good view of all three Ozaukee County Lighthouses registered with the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society as USA 652, USA 653, and USA 654. These lighthouses are better known as: the 1864 Light Station museum, the Army Corps of Engineers light on the end of the breakwater, and the "spirit" of the non-existent "North Pier head" light.

In 2007 the Ozaukee Radio Club was appropriately the first amateur radio club to "activate" these Ozaukee County lighthouses!

We think with the new VISITORS WELCOME signs we will draw many festival goers to our booth to promote the club during what is becoming one of Ozaukee county's biggest festivals.

Come to the August 12th meeting to get the final details on the site and sign up for an operating time.

## New Members

Michael Richter (KB9WNS) is one of our newer members in the ORC. While he lives in West Bend he grew up in Milwaukee where he attended Madison High School, MATC and MSOE.

Michael worked for several years for AT&T wireless in network optimization and more recently for Custom Power Tech in Menomonie Falls and Eaton in Milwaukee.

He has always been interested in electronics and his early interest as a SWL and CB'er spurred him on into amateur radio. Michael got

his first license in 2000 and currently holds an Extra class license.



**Michael Richter (KB9WNS)**

His primary rig is a Yaesu FT847 that he uses mostly on 20 and 80 meters SSB using wire antenna. That rig also does 2 meters and he runs a 400 watt "brick" on 2 to make sure he can check into the Milwaukee nets.

Michael has already been active in ORC activities and you may recall visiting with him at a meeting or at field day. Welcome to the Ozaukee Radio Club Michael.

## Scholarship Program

De Ed Rate (AA9W)

Many thanks to the volunteers who responded to the call to take the Knaus tower down on July 31. At the site bright and early were Gabe WI9GC, Nels WA9JOB, Jim K9QLP, Mark AB9CD, Phil Gural W9NAW and Ed AA9W. Phil did the tower climbing duty for the club. While one team worked with the tower, others took down the big satellite dish. The job was completed in about four hours and the site was left in good order. The tower and rotor have been sold and delivered. Other antennas that were on the tower are available for sale.

The Scholarship program has received a large donation from the Paul R. Smith AB9CT estate. On Saturday, July 25 and Sunday July 26, Nels

WA9JOB, Tom W9IPR, and Ed AA9W picked up the donated equipment. The large donation consists of radio receivers, transmitters, test equipment, tools, component parts, and audio equipment. Many high value items like Collins, Hammarlund, Hallicrafter, and National are among the manufacturers on the list. Photos will be available at the next ORC meeting.

Ed AA9W [erate@milwpc.com](mailto:erate@milwpc.com)

## Junk Box Product

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

I have recently become interested in doing some restoration of "boat anchors" that I had lusted for as a kid. One precaution to take when reactivating an old radio is to increase the supply voltage from perhaps 50 to 120 VAC over a couple of hour period to reform any dry electrolytic filter capacitors in the power supply.

For this purpose I had an old "variac" but it had a two wire cord and receptacle and no real leakage current protection or metering. To upgrade this old "variac" I went to my junk box.

In my junk box I found an old test equipment box, wall switch, pilot lamp, GFI receptacle, a couple of meters and new line cord. Everything I needed plus a few hours to make the useful variable AC power supply seen below.

Both the meters were to read 130 VAC so I figured to convert one to read AC amperes. Then I discovered that the meters had DC movements and used a diode to convert the AC to DC. Due to the diode voltage drop the meter is useless with a shunt but it still looks good. Now to find a matching replacement AC ampere .meter.

The net result is an item of useful test equipment with GFI protection down to about 80 VAC and a smaller box of "good stuff".



**A variable AC Voltage Power Supply using "junk box" parts.**

## For Sale, Trade or ?

We have just received a large donation of equipment to our Scholarship Fund. In accordance with our by-laws, ORC members are given first opportunity to make an offer to purchase donated items before a general sale.

Prices for most items have been established based on current eBay completed sales. Offers to purchase have been received on some of the items.

### RECEIVERS

R388	Collins	\$300
75-S1	Collins	\$300
R390A	Collins	\$600
SX-28	Hallicrafters	\$175
SX-71	Hallicrafters	\$75
SX-42	Hallicrafters	\$245
SX-101	Hallicrafters	\$179
SB-300	Heathkit	\$180
NC-109	National	\$81
FRG-7	Yaesu	\$215
S77 A	Hallicrafters	\$60
Sky Champion	Hallicrafters	\$60

### TRANSMITTERS

IC-718	ICOM	(HF)	\$450
HW-8	Heathkit	(QRP)	\$135

### TEST EQUIPMENT

Tube Tester Mdl 151	Accurate Inst. Co.	\$25
Grid Dipper (no coils)	Heathkit	\$10
RF Sig. Gen.	Knight Kit	\$15

There is much more but these are the big items. If you are interested in making an offer, please email me soon at [etrade@milwpc.com](mailto:etrade@milwpc.com)

73 Ed AA9W

## Remembering

De Joe Sturmborg (KA9DFZ)



## Upcoming Events

### August

1<sup>st</sup> North American CW QSO Party  
 12<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**  
 15<sup>th</sup> **Maritime Heritage Festival @ Port W.**  
 15<sup>th</sup> Bolingbrook Swapfest @ Bolingbrook IL  
 15<sup>th</sup> **ORC Corn roast**  
 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> North American SSB QSO Party  
 15<sup>th</sup> Racine Megacycle Freefest @ Sturtevant

### September

12<sup>th</sup> **ORC Outdoor Swapfest**  
 6<sup>th</sup> North American Sprint – SSB Contest  
 9<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**  
 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> ARRL VHF QSO Party  
 19<sup>th</sup> W9DXCC convention at Elk Grove Village IL  
 24<sup>th</sup> OZARES  
 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> CQ WW RTTY Contest

### October

14<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**  
 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> **JOTA Boy Scout “on the air” Weekend @ Pioneer Village**  
 22<sup>rd</sup> OZARES  
 24<sup>th</sup> – 25 CQ DX WW SSB Contest

## Programs



Richard Wood, W9JBE presented an informative program at the July meeting about his monster rhombic antennas

At the August meeting Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) will present “An Introduction to Win Link”.

## Repeaters

Nels Harvey WA9JOB

Things have been pretty quiet lately on the Club's three repeaters. There is almost no activity on the 443.750 MHz. repeater. The 224.18 MHz repeater chugs along with a select core of users there, and the 146.97 Mhz. repeaters remains fairly quiet on most days.

One thing I have noted recently is an increase of short 'key-ups'. This causes the repeaters to ID, then go quiet again. Yes, the repeaters are working! Instead of just keying up the repeaters, why not put your call sign out there (as required by the FCC)? You might be surprised by how many times you will get an answer.

The controllers we use have a feature called a 'kerchunk filter'. I turned the feature on recently and a curious thing happened. The repeater wouldn't respond normally to a short key-up, but the transmitter would be activated anyway. This is due to the circuit I used for the cross band convenience, and elimination of the squelch burst on transmitter shutdown. I had to turn the 'kerchunk filter' off to be in compliance of the FCC rules. Before I did however, I was hearing complaints of the ID not working! Of course this came from the very ones doing the 'kerchunking'!

The repeaters are there for you to use. Just don't forget their goal is also to be available for emergency communication. By normal use we are able to assess their proper operation. It also is good for each operator to reassure that their radios are functioning properly. You're welcome!

73,



### So when do we have too many mobil radios?

The



Column

By Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), Column Editor

This is the last OZARES Column! Emergency Coordinator Mike Yugas (AB9ON) has requested that we go back to a separate OZARES Newsletter, rather than this short column. WB9RQR will be the editor.

Our last meeting (23Jul) was a busy one. We discussed National Weather Service-Sullivan issues, and the Time/ Location/Condition/Station-style check ins during both OZARES and NWS nets. We hashed over the need for more Mobile Communications Truck (MCT) driver training, and Mike appointed a committee to look into repair/replacement of the MCT generator. The statewide Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was announced (3Oct). District Emergency Coordinator Jon Gilmore (KB9RHZ) spoke a bit about putting ham equipment in nursing homes. The appointment of Skip Douglas (KA9DDN) as AEC for Policy and Procedure was announced. We trained by testing HTs on 147.33 and 443.525 MHz, and a number of simplex frequencies we use. We tested the pagers. And the new Ozaukee County Emergency Manager, Mark Owen, was introduced and welcomed.

On 27Jul, we had a real WX net. Storms barreled into the state from points west, and threatened to stir things up in Ozaukee County. AEC for WX Nancy (KC9FZK) and Cindy (KA9PZG)

activated the tree, including pagers, and Brooks (KC9IOL) took the Net Control position. Besides Brooks, those checking in included KC9FZK, WI9GC, AA9XK, N9SFG, KC9GJD, N9SQA, KA9PZG, W9KHH, W9BTN, KA9DDN, WB9RQR, KC9BKA, KC9LMS (Wash Co ARES) and AB9ON, for a total of 15 standing by and ready for assignment. Ma Nature cooperated a bit, though, and no severe conditions were reported. We were staffed and ready, though. Thanks to those who participated.

**NET CONTROL SCHEDULE:** OZARES nets are held each Thursday at 8:00 p.m., except on meeting nights (4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays). Both a net script and check-in list can be obtained on the OZARES web site, [www.ozares.org](http://www.ozares.org). If you are scheduled for NCO duty and cannot make it, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Check the latest check in list on the website for possible hams to trade dates with, and keep the net manager (WB9RQR) informed of confirmed trades. Guests are always welcome after the OZARES check-ins are complete, most especially ORC members! By the way, if you see a difference between the schedule on the website and this column, this column will always be correct, since it reflects last minute changes and substitutions. Such changes and substitutions will be in bold print here if known at the time the column was prepared.

06 Aug	W9BTN
13 Aug	KA9DDN
20 Aug	KC9FZK
27 Aug	Meeting
03 Sep	WI9GC
10 Sep	K9GCF
17 Sep	AAQ9GT
24 Sep	Meeting
01 Oct	KC9IOL
08 Oct	W9IPR
15 Oct	W9KHH

22 Oct	Meeting
29 Oct	WB9RQR

## Minutes– July 8th, 2009

De Chuck Curran (W9POU)

The meeting was called to order by Club President Bill Howe KA9WRL at 7:32 PM. This was followed by everyone present introducing themselves.

### Announcements:

- Bill Howe brought up a point about a Michigan radio club that disbanded. It disbanded due to a lack of interest in anyone in the group assuming a leadership role in that club. The unspoken point is clear, if we want the OZR to continue in a strong manner, we all need to make sure we make a solid contribution.

**Program:** Richard Wood, W9JBE presented a wonderful presentation on Monster antennas. Richard. Had built a two element quad and erected it in 1985. In 1987 Richard purchased a kit for third and fourth elements, and finally erected them during the summer and fall of 2008. Many excellent photographs were provided and it appeared that a great antenna is now in place and 100% functional.

**Fellowship Break:** Dave, N9UNR sold the 50/50 tickets. Gary, W9XT won the raffle.

**Auction:** Stan Kaplan WB9RQR conducted the auction. Many items were sold to the group tonight.

**May Meeting Minutes:** Bill Howe asked if the minutes for the June meeting were acceptable, Dave Barrow, N9UNR, motioned that they be approved as is and it was seconded by Mike Yuhas. The club voted to approve.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was passed out to all and reviewed by Nels Harvey, WA9JOB. The printed report had a \$24.58 last minute change. The Field Day expenses were totaled at \$387.32, which was well within the budgeted constraints. The Treasurer's report was motioned to be

accepted as presented by Ed Rate, and seconded by Stan Kaplan.

**Repeater Report:** Nels indicated that our repeater site was hit by lightning. The breakers for the 220 MHz and 146 MHz repeaters tripped and many fuses were blown. One of the switching power supplies died as a result of the lightning hit. 10 meter radio needed a new fuse and will require additional work. This is the one tied into the 200 MHz link. The 2 meter receiver is not working well; it lost quite a bit of sensitivity. A replacement will be installed as soon as it can be purchased.

**Light House Event:** This event comes up on August 14, 2009. Tom Nawrot described some of the details associated with the Light House Event. More to come at the August meeting.

**Corn Roast:** On Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> the OZR Corn Roast will be held. A variety of games to be held were discussed such a Bong Ball and others. Nels has beer & the Corn Roast will be held at Waubedonia Park. Mike Yuhas has been talked into cooking the Brats, and the picnic will be starting at 11:00 AM

**Club Rosters:** Dave Barrow announced a printing error in the new club rosters. A new copy will be printed and released at the next club meeting in August.

**Old Business:** Leon Rediske, K9GCF, gave a big "Thank You" to all who had helped during the Field Day effort. Some sad comments were made about a 40 meter vertical, not sure by who----- . Tents for Field Day 2010 were discussed. GabeChido, WI9GC, 3 were available in the barn, all were good tents. One will be set up and inspected. ORC board will decide on any needed purchases of new tents, after the inspection is completed.

Tom Ruhlmann graciously presented a 12 pack of Miller Beer to Bob Truscott, W9LO, after acknowledging the fact that some strange 40 meter vertical had some issues during Field Day.

**Adjournment:** Stan Kaplan Wb9RQR moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Dave Bar-

row, N9UNR, and the motion passed with 100% voting in favor.

**Meeting Attendance:** Bill Howe KA9WRL, Dick Holt, AB0UF, Kate Holt, KB0SIO, Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK, Mark Potash, KC9GST, Naomi Potash, KC9GSS, Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, Ray Totzke, W9KHH, Joe Sturmberby, KA9DEZ, Bob Truscott, W9LO, Jeff Alper, WB9PZD, Peter Chow, AF6DS, Julia Nawrot, KC9WBQ, Tom Nawrot, AA9XK, Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, Gabe Chido, WI9GC, Ed Rate, AA9W, Jim Albrinck, K9QLP, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, Leon Rediske, K9GCF, Lou Schule, N9LOU, Dick Wood, W9LKE, Michael Richter, KB9WNS, Mike Yuhas, AB9ON, Mark Fielkow, KB9PXE, Todd Fast, N9DRY, Chuck Curran, W9POU



## **AGENDA**

*August 12, 2009*

1. Call to order – Bill Howe (KA9WRL)
  2. Introductions.
  3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
  4. Program: Stan Kaplan (KB9RQR) – Introduction to WinLink
  5. Fellowship Break
  6. Auction.
  7. Acceptance of Minutes as printed.
- 
8. Treasurer's report – Nels (WA0JOB).
  9. Repeater report – John (W9NRG)
  10. Committee reports.  
Corn roast –  
Special Event Station -  
Sept. Swapfest -
  11. OLD BUSINESS
  12. NEW BUSINESS
  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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grafton**

**Wednesday, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**