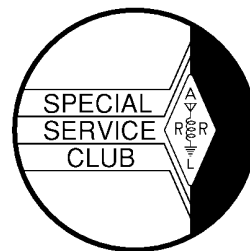




# The *ORC* Newsletter

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.



AMATEUR RADIO

ORC Repeaters on 146.97, 224.18 and 443.750 MHz -  
Callsign W9CQO Web site: [www.ozaukeeradioclub.org](http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org)

Volume XXVII

September 2008

Number 9

## From the President

De Mike Yuhas (AB9ON)

Your Ozaukee Radio Club is always working on something to keep area hams busy and happy. Activities in August and September are typical.

Our well-attended August 13 membership meeting featured Tom Nawrot (AA9XK) and Bill Howe (KA9WRL) talking about the club's participation at the International Light-house/Lightship Weekend.

Corn was roasted, and everyone had a great time at our annual corn roast at Waubedonia Park on August 16. The weather was outstanding, the corn was delectable, and the meats were cooked to perfection. Many thanks to all – especially Tom Nawrot and Ed Frac (AA9WW) for setting up this fun annual event.

Did you notice several hams leaving the corn roast early? They were headed over to the 1860 Light Station in Port Washington, where Tom Nawrot, Bill Howe and Tom Murtaugh (W9VBQ) had set up a dandy amateur radio station to work the ILLW. Thanks to them, and also to Rick Waedekin (N9PMR) of Icom America who graciously loaned an IC-7800 for the event – and stuck around most all of Saturday and Sunday to support the radio and event. What a fun weekend!

September brings us the annual Fall Swapfest (September 6 at Fireman's Park, details elsewhere in this issue). While you're marking your calendar for the Swapfest, also be sure to circle Wednesday, September 10: our membership meeting features a demonstration of radio controlled model helicopters by AstroWings of Wisconsin.

And there's one other item worth noting. Club member Todd Sprinkmann (KC9BQA) is organizing an informal weekly FM simplex net, Thursday evenings at 8:30 PM, on 146.490. It's a great way to ensure your 2-meter rig can work something other than area repeaters! Todd hopes this weekly activity will inspire local hams to consider VHF and UHF operation and contesting.

Are you an expert? Antennas, amplifier design, inductors, PSK31, or perhaps something else related to amateur radio? I'll ask that question at our September membership meeting. See you then!

## VHF/UHF–Simplex for You?

De Todd Sprinkmann (KC9BQA)

When I first heard of ham radio nearly 40 years ago, I associated it with talking to people in faraway countries. Then some years later, I got a police scanner, and learned about shorter-range communications via repeaters. These are popular and enjoyable aspects of hamming.

However, when I finally got my ticket in 2002, I immediately became a VHF/UHF enthusiast. I operate almost entirely on the SSB, or "weak-signal" side of 6 meters, 2 meters and higher. Most of my antennas are horizontally polarized, which is the convention among the SSB crowd.

We can routinely have 100-200 mile QSO's on 144 MHz, or 2 meters. Without the help of repeaters, and without any sort of special propagation enhancement. Decent antennas are a big plus – your range definitely expands as you get more gain. Every db counts when you're trying to work weak ones on VHF/UHF. Also make sure to turn your squelch way down and use headphones.

At certain times of the year, sporadic E skip propagation appears suddenly on 50 MHz or 6 meters, and even stations with very modest antennas can find themselves talking to New England, Florida, all across the USA. This is a common occurrence in the summer months, and band openings can last for hours. I work at least 45-50 US states and Canadian provinces on 6 meters every summer. This is with a standard 100 watt rig and simple loop antennas on the side of a tower. Antennas about 30-40' up is optimal for E skip.

For hams who are looking for something new and exciting to do in the hobby, SSB operation with horizontal polarization can provide a lot of surprises. I will help anyone with questions. My email is good at [www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com), and I also use the ORC email reflector via Yahoo.

I am currently running nets on Wed. and Thur. nights that ORC members can listen to or join in. Most popular among the majority of hams is the FM simplex net on Thursday nights, at 8:30pm, on 146.49 FM, vertical polarization. I get check-ins across SE Wis., and last Thursday, a dairy farmer from Wauzeka, WI checked in from his ridge top shack. Wauzeka is in SW Wisconsin, Crawford Co. – a 140 mile path.

The other net night is on Wednesdays, and at 8:30pm, I call the Badger Contesters net on 144.250, USB. While horizontal polarization is the norm here, we do get folks who check in on their verticals, and that's fine. The only point of these nets is to increase participation on the bands we enjoy. New folks are welcomed.

This is a great time of the year to get your feet wet in VHF/UHF weak-signal work. The most active contest of the year is Sep. 13-14. It's the ARRL September VHF Sweepstakes and all are welcome to participate, FM and SSB. The full rules are listed here: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/sepvhf.html>

There is also a 4-hour sprint devoted strictly to 2 meters on Monday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7-11pm. That is another great opportunity to get a taste of contesting.

We will talk about these contests more during the Thursday 146.49 FM net – several ORC members will be operating and we need as many QSO's and points as we can get. I will also be happy to answer questions during the nets. In fact, we'll probably do a bit of a mock contest the next two Thursdays, so that others can listen in and feel a bit more familiar. I'd expect to hear that after about 9pm.

## New Members

We enjoyed the company of another new member at the August membership meeting. Richard Labuda of West Bend became interested in HAM radio through his Red Cross activities.



**Richard Labuda, KC9NZR**

Richard served as a Wisconsin State Trooper for 4 years and then joined the West Bend Fire Department where he served for 25 years. In 1998 Richard retired from the fire department but continued an association via his work with the Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team.

As the West Bend Red Cross began to upgrade their service they realized the significance of HAM radio in their emergency operations and it

was suggested that some of the members earn an FCC amateur radio license and that a Washington County communication plan be developed. That challenge was accepted by Richard and he passed his Technician license exam in June, 2008 and holds the call of KC9NZR.

Currently Richard is becoming familiar with the local UHF/VHF repeaters and his new Yasue FT60 and FT1802 equipments.

When not doing Red Cross volunteer work and learning to "HAM", Richard is active in the honor guard for the VFW and American Legion.

Richard, welcome to amateur radio and the Ozaukee Radio Club.

## ORC Swapfest Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>

6 AM at Fireman's Park (Fair Grounds)  
796 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg 53012  
Go to [ozaukeeradioclub.org](http://ozaukeeradioclub.org) for a map etc.

## Cornroast

Pictures speak louder than words but it was a beautiful day and a really nice time was had at the annual ORC cornroast at Waubedonia Park.



The group spent time visiting while the vittles were being prepared.



Tom Nawrot (AA9XK) finally cleared the grill smoke and seemed to enjoy cooking the brats and burgers for the group.



Ed Rate (AA9W) seems to have a look of disbelief concerning the corn boiled by Tom (W9IPR)

Special thanks to those who again did the work to make the "roast" possible. Thanks to Ed Frac who transported the refreshments and equipment between the shed and park; Ed Rate who obtained the corn and Tom who boiled it: Tom Nawrot who handled the chef responsibilities and all those who brought a dish and the condiments.

If you missed the corn roast you missed a nice time.



**John Schrader (W9NRG) and Mariam Barrow fill their plates at the bountiful table of food.**



**Ah! Food is good. What more need be said.**



**All good things come to an end as the “contesters” gather around Ed Frac’s (AA9WW) truck to load up the corn boiler and equipment and take it back to the shed.**

## “Port” Lighthouse

Tom AA9XK

After the big Corn Roast on Saturday morning, the action moved to the 1860 Lighthouse in Port Washington where on August 16 and 17, the ORC operated a special event station in the International Amateur Radio Lighthouse Weekend.



**The weather was great and the shade of the tent welcome at the Port Washington Lighthouse Activation ORC special event station.**

The setup people on Friday afternoon included Tom W9VBQ, Loren N9ENR, Bill KA9WRL, Mark AB9CD, and Tom AA9XK. The antenna plan began with discussions with the Lighthouse Directors, a decision to use Old Glory to support one end of the dipole, and safety concerns such as carpet to cover the power cord, safety marking for supports and radials, etc. We did not want our presence to interfere with the many out of town and local people taking tours of the lighthouse on the Port Maritime Heritage Festival weekend.

Using the ICOM 7800 loaned to us for the weekend by Rick N9PMR, we had no trouble being heard. The weather and our view of the lake couldn't be better! The setup crew people along with, Stan WB9RQR, Nancy KC9FZK, Dick AB0VF, Kate KB0SIO, Ray W9BUJ, Rick N9PMR, Julia KB9WBQ, Tom AA9XK, Terry KA9RFM, Mike WJ9O and family, and Mike AB9ON and family made 172 contacts.



Rick Waedekin (N9PMR), coaches Mark Tellier (AB9CD) on the use of the new ICOM 7800 loaned to the ORC by ICOM for use at the activation.



Tom Nawrot (AA9XK) was the event chairman and kept busy making contacts on the IC7800 at the ORC special event station.

Tom Murtaugh was a logger extraordinaire logging ALL our contacts, including contacts with many sta-

tions operating from other lighthouses. Bill Howe developed an attractive photo QSL card with historical information input from Linda Nenn, Co-Director of the Port Washington 1860 Lighthouse. Linda wrote some kind words about the ORC and our humble effort:

## EAA AirVenture Oshkosh W9ZL Special Event station

De Steve Pierce ( )

The EAA's annual AirVenture Oshkosh is the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual Fly-In Convention and Aviation extravaganza. Sort of like an aviation counterpart to the Dayton Hamvention, this event draws somewhere between 500,000 to 700,000 visitors and over 10, 000 aircraft from all over the world! My son Nicholas (KC9MEA) and I were among those in attendance, and it's quite an experience!



The KidVenture station was setup in the shade tent next to the vintage radio shack. The shack contained vintage as well as current equipment for the AirVenture special event station.

For the past several years the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club has operated a Special Event Station on the grounds of AirVenture, using the callsign W9ZL. This year (as well as last) they were part of "KidVenture". Located at historic Pioneer Airport, this portion of AirVenture is dedicated to exposing youngsters to a variety of aviation-related topics through a variety of fun and hand-on activities. This location gave the

club a good spot to expose KidVenture attendees to Amateur Radio, and work some contacts to boot.

They had several HF operating positions as well as VHF, and seemed to be having a great time! When we visited the station, Jon AB9AH, Eric ND0L, Nyles W9KUW, Steve KB9QPU, Dustin KC9MEL and Ken K9KJM were operating or showing off the station, and ARRL Section Manager Don Michalski was on hand to pass out information on ARRL and our terrific hobby. Nick even took a brief turn at the mic.

I believe they plan to be in the same place next year, so if you find yourself at AirVenture in 2009, stop by Pioneer Airport and say hello.

## And the winner is:

For the second year in a row the winner of the ORC \$1000 scholarship is Ms. Natalie Harding, KC9KIR. Congratulations on your being an "honors" student at Oshkosh and best wishes toward your continued success.



**Natalie Harding (KC9KIR) is again the ORC \$1000 scholarship winner.**

Ozaukee Radio Club members,

Thank you so much for choosing me again to be this year's Ozaukee Radio Club scholarship recipient. I am very honored and thankful for the wonderful generosity and support I have received from the Ham radio community. This scholarship will help me in reaching my goals. I will be starting my sophomore year this fall at The University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh this fall where I will continue to work, as an honors student, towards a degree in Anthropology with a possible minor in Spanish or Arabic. I hope to transfer to the university of Maryland my junior year, all the while spreading the word about the important role Ham radio plays, especially when disaster strikes'.

Natalie Harding, KC9KIR

## Upcoming Events

### September

**6<sup>th</sup> ORC Outdoor Swapfest**

*6<sup>th</sup> North American Sprint – SSB Contest*

*13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> ARRL VHF QSO Party*

**10<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting**

*20<sup>th</sup> W9DXCC con. at Elk Grove Village IL*

*25<sup>th</sup> OZARES*

*27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> CQ WW RTTY Contest*

*20<sup>th</sup> – 21st Peoria Superfest @ Peoria IL*

*Chicago FM Club Swapfest @ Belvidere  
@ Boone County Fairgrounds*

### October

*4<sup>th</sup> ARRL simulated emer. test*

**8<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting**

*11<sup>th</sup> NA Sprint*

**18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> JOTA Boy Scout "on the air"  
Weekend @ Pioneer Village**

*23<sup>rd</sup> OZARES*

*25<sup>th</sup> – 26 CQ DX WW SSB Contest*

*25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 10 – 10 CW QSO Contest*

### November

*1<sup>st</sup> – 2nd ARRL November CW Sweepstakes*

**12<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting**

*15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November Phone Sweepstakes*

29th **Christmas Parade – Grafton**  
29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> CQ WW CW DX Contest  
MRC Swapfest @ Waukesha Expo



By Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), Column Editor

At the 28Aug meeting, we went over the answers to a net exercise held the week before. KC9FZK had authored eight short messages that were read on the air during the net on 21Aug. Listeners were not to copy the messages, but rather to decide what precedence each had – Emergency (always spelled out completely), P(riority), W(elfare) or R(outine). Stan went over the answers and read the definitions of each precedence, all of which are documented in ARRL FSD-218 (commonly known as the “pink sheet”, though it is actually a card).

During the training drill that followed, several operators staffed the Mobile Communications Truck (**MCT**), several staffed the Emergency Communications Center (**ECC**) and several staffed the Emergency Operations Center (**EOC**). Messages were again passed fast and furiously. Things went better this time, though we still need more practice. We will continue on the Thursday night nets with copying practice, more practice, and still more practice, until everyone can do it well. As always, non-OZARES ORC members are more than welcome to check into the net, or just sit back in the background and practice copying messages with us, whichever you prefer. It is good training for everyone’s ham ear!

Again, mark your calendars. The 25 September OZARES meeting will be a training session, FEMA courses **IS-100** and **IS-700**, in one sitting. Wisconsin ARES/RACES (as well as state and federal officials) have made this a requirement for all hams that respond to emergencies (in person or over the air). So clear your calendars and attend. That meeting will be held in the Saukville Fire House (Hwy 33), **not in the Justice Center**. Please note that this meeting will start at **6:30 p.m.**

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 complete schedule on the web site for possible hams to trade dates with, and keep the net manager (WB9RQR) informed of confirmed trades. Guests are 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 to the website version will be in bold print here if known at the time of printing.

04 Sep	<b>AA9W</b>
11 Sep	AA9XK
18 Sep	N9XRU
25 Sep	Meeting <b>IS-100 and IS-700, meeting at the Saukville Firehouse (Hwy 33, 6:30 p.m.)</b>
02 Oct	N9SFG
09 Oct	KA9DDN
16 Oct	K9DXT
23 Oct	Meeting
06 Nov	WI9GC
13 Nov	AA9GT
20 Nov	Meeting
27 Nov	No net; Thanksgiving

## OZARES Announcement

WI ARES/RACES has set a requirement of the following 2 courses in order to remain a member of ARES/RACES.

- FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction
- ICS-100: Introduction to ICS or equivalent

On September 25 these courses will be offered together for all OZARES members. You may

take them on the 25th or you may take them online at the FEMA website and submit evidence of passing. There is no fee involved.

If you plan on taking the courses on the 25th, I need to have you let me know so planning can be done. Please do so ASAP.

Jon Gilmore (KB9RHZ)

## ORC Board Minutes

*4 August 2008*

President Mike Yuhas, AB9ON, called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

### Attendees:

Mike, AB9ON  
Nels, WA9JOB  
Tom, W9IPR  
Bill, KA9WRL  
Tom N., AA9XK  
Tim, KA9EAK

Bill, KA9WRL, made a motion to accept the minutes from the last board meeting. Nels, WA9JOB, seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Corn Roast** – The event will be held on Saturday, 16 August, at Wabedonia Park. Tom N., AA9XK, will help Bill, KA9WRL, with the planning and preparation. Tom R., W9IPR, will be helping with the cooking.

Tom, AA9XK, will put out a notice to get RSVPs for the event on the remailer. Tom will also ask for a volunteer at the upcoming general meeting to get the beer and soda for the event.

There was some discussion about potentially moving the event to the park on the bluff at Port Washington next year. It was decided to bring this idea before the members at the meeting after the Corn Roast.

### Other business:

The club's membership in the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society will be renewed. The cost is \$25 and will be paid out of the existing budget.

The program for the August meeting will be the Lighthouse Society and our operations associated with it.

The clubs records with the ARRL need to be updated. Mike, AB9ON, will update the records in conjunction with Ed, AA9WW.

There was some discussion about creating a job description for each position in the club to ensure smooth transitions of responsibility.

It was noted the Gabe, WI9GC, is doing a great job preparing (including promotion) of the upcoming fall swapfest.

Bill, KA9WRL, would like to have the club attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scouting Jamboree that will be held 25-27 September 2009 at the EAA grounds in Oshkosh. This will be discussed further at the future meeting. Bill is going to contact Bay-Lakes council to let them know that we are interested in attending. He will update us on the status of the request at a future meeting.

The next board meeting will be held on Monday, 6 October.

Tom, AA9XK made a motion to adjourn, Bill, KA9WRL, seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

## ORC Membership Meeting

*Minutes for regular meeting of 13 August 2008*

De Tim Boppre, KA9EAK

President Mike Yuhas, AB9ON, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Attendees introduced themselves and indicated if they had ever worked a lighthouse special event station and/or if they have ever worked from a lighthouse special event station. A fair number had worked lighthouse stations and more than a handful had worked from lighthouse stations.

### Announcements and bragging rights

Ken, W9GA, reminded everyone about the VHF contest 13-14 September.

John Schrader, W9NRG, is the new Radio Systems Administrator for Washington County. Congratulations John.

### Program:

The program consisted of a presentation by Tom, AA9XK, and Bill, KA9WRL, on the upcoming lighthouse activation. They are going to activate the lighthouse at Rotary Park in Port Washington. They will activate three light-



house numbers. They will be active on 10, 15, 20, and 40m.

Daryl Sharpee of the Washington County Red Cross gave a brief presentation on how the Red Cross interacts with the local community.

#### **Fellowship break:**

Gabe, WI9GC, held the 50/50.

#### **Auction:**

Stan, WB9RQR, assisted by Jon, KB9RHZ which included the last of the club's old PCs from past Field Day operations.

#### **Acceptance of minutes**

A motion was made by Bill, KA9WRL, to accept the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Jon, KB9RHZ. The motion was carried.

#### **Treasurer's report**

Nels, WA9JOB, gave the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Jon, KB9RHZ, to accept the treasurer's report as read (subject to audit.) Dave, N9UNR seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### *Repeater report*

John, W9NRG, nothing significant to report other than the power is intermittently dropping out on the 97 repeater. They are looking into the situation.

Nels, WA9JOB, reported that the Grafton firehouse installation is back on the air. The 220 repeater has the new Kenwood installed and the Id on the 440 repeater is working properly again.

Dave, N9UNR made a motion to add an announcement to the 97 repeater about the upcoming swafest. Gabe, WI9GC seconded the motion. Gary, W9XT stated that he would donate a voice keyer to the effort if needed. After a bit of discussion the motion was put to the members for a vote and was defeated, 18 – No against 16 – Yes. The motion was defeated.

##### *Scholarship*

Ed Rate, AA9W, announced that the scholarship was awarded to Natalie Harding, KC9KIR.

#### **Old Business:**

None

#### **New Business**

Astrowings of Wisconsin is the program for the 10 September meeting. They'll be flying RC helicopters.

#### **Attendance:**

43 attendees -- 42 members, and 1 guest.

Mike AB9ON, Stan WB9RQR, Ed AA9W, Kent N9WH, Gabriel WI9GC, Dave N9UNR, Mark N0OKS, Nels WA9JOB, Gary W9XT, Tom W9IPR, Mark KC9GST, Nancy KC9FZK, Ray W9KHH, Mark AB9CD, Terry KA9RFM, Jim K9QLP, Dominic W9KKX, Tim KA9EAK, Patrick KC9LRK, Tom W9VBQ, Bill KA9WRL, Ron W9BCK, Ed AA9WW, Leon K9GCF, Jon KB9RHZ, Chuck WA9POU, Paul KC9NHD, Roger W9UVV, Doug N9KG, Bob WQ9N, Mike WJ9O, John W9NRG, Naomi KC9GSS, Dick AB0UF, Kate KB0SIO, Daryl, Richard KC9NZR, Mike N9JIY, Ray W9BUJ, Jeff WB9PZD, Bob W9LO, Don W9VSC, Ken W9GA

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy, KC9FZK, and seconded by Leon, K9GCF, the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

## **AGENDA**

*September 10th, 2008*

1. Call to order – Mike (WB9ON)
  2. Introductions.
  3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
  4. Program:
  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.  
Outdoor Swapfest - Gabe Chido  
Lighthouse Activation – Tom Nawrot  
Cornroast – Tom Nawrot
  11. OLD BUSINESS
  12. NEW BUSINESS
  13. Adjournment to ?

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### **The ORC Newsletter**

465 Beechwood Drive  
Cedarburg WI\* 53012

### **First Class**

## **Next ORC Meeting**

**Grafton Senior Citizens Center**

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

**Wednesday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**