

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

Volume XXV

May 2006

Number 5

The Prez Sez

By Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

Actually it has been another pretty active month with HAM radio. It all started with the AES Superfest and is ending with preparation for the Opportunity Days at Parkview School in Cedarburg and the ORC Swapfest at the Circle B.

The AES Superfest was again a great time with vendors, clubs and area Ham's getting together and sharing stories and knowledge. A great time to renew old acquaintances.

Ed, Tom and I went to the Swapfest at Stoughton to pass out ORC flyers and see what we might find to complete our stations. Actually, I don't think any of us found anything we really needed however I had a chance to visit with a few of the vendors. I had a short visit with a commercial vendor from the Chicago area and ask him how the swapfest business was going this year. His response, Dying! I asked him exactly what he meant and he responded "look around, do you see any kids?" I think he said it all in a net shell. We need to expose the kids to amateur radio and get them interested - if only to have a market for our used equipment. Really, the future is with our youth and it is fun to share the amateur experience with them.

Bill Howe (W9WRL), Tom Murtaugh (W9VBQ) and I will be at the Parkview Elementary School in Cedarburg on May 5th to give them a glimpse of amateur radio. I am really looking forward to it. If we only interest a couple of kids when added to the couple from the Boy Scout day that's a start. Perhaps it's time to start a new Technician training class. Interested in coordinating or presenting?

Perhaps the biggest thrill of the month was my receipt of my first "DX Century Club" certificate. True, there were 34,120 awards issued prior to mine but it was still a thrill.

Looking forward the big event is of course the ORC Swapfest at Circle B on May 6th. This should be a really talked about event with a Presidents Roundtable, three forums and a raft of door prizes. Among other prizes there are ICOM caps and T-shirts, "Gel/Cell" 33 Ah AGM batteries, a battery minder, CQ magazine subscriptions, ARRL publications etc. and the grand prize of an ICOM HT. We have sent letters of invitation to 27 area clubs and Mark Potash (KC9GST) has sent out post cards to over 800 area Ham's so I expect a really big gate. Hope I see you among the crowd.

And what follows the ORC Swapfest? The Dayton Hamfest of course. Now this is a really great time. All the stuff of tomorrow is inside the arena and the stuff of yesteryear is outside in the flea market. Typically I spend 3 days in flea market but this year I plan to make a couple of the forums. To each his own. If you are interested in joining us, first practice your negotiating skills and then call Nels (WA9JOB). Nels may have an extra room and ticket reserved and there may be extra space in the caravan of vehicles.

And don't forget the Tour de Cure on May 21st. For that you can get more information on volunteering at

n9rx@sbcbglobal.net.

The final reminder is that of the Annual River Fest Cleanup in Saukville. It is scheduled for June 2nd. To volunteer contact Cindy at 262-375-4757.

Again, May is looking like a great month for Hamming. Get involved and have some fun.

New Members

One of our newest members is John Schrader (W9NRG). John holds a General Class ticket and was previously known as K1VIP. Currently



John Schrader (W9NRG) is moving to Cedarburg and is one of our newest members.

John is in the process of moving to Cedarburg from Oak Creek so it will be awhile before he gets the station up and operating again. He spends most of his time on HF and his home station consists of an SG-2020, ADSP2 and an LDG z-11 antenna tuner. In the Mobil he operates an FT-847 and an ATAS-100 antenna. So how did John learn of the ORC? He works with Nels' son as a radio communications technician for Milwaukee County Transit System. He also works as an independent contractor for NRG Communications.

Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

- May 7th – Russian DX Contest
- May 7th – 10-10 10 Meter CW Contest
- May 10th – 222 MHz Spring Sprint
- May 12th – Georgia QSO Party
- May 13th – FISTS Spring Sprint
- May 13th – 50 MHz Spring Sprint
- May 15th – MI QSO Party
- May 16th – YU DX Contest

AES Superfest

Again, the Superfest was a great time. Several of us spent both Friday and Saturday there and it was fun to talk with the various vendors and other club members. In addition, we had 10 different HAMS sign up at our Club table as being interested in joining the ORC. Who got lucky this year? Mark Potash won a new ICOM HT as a door prize – congratulations Mark. But as they say, pictures are worth a thousand words.



Jim Hilins (KA4UPW) gave an informative presentation on restoration of antique radios.

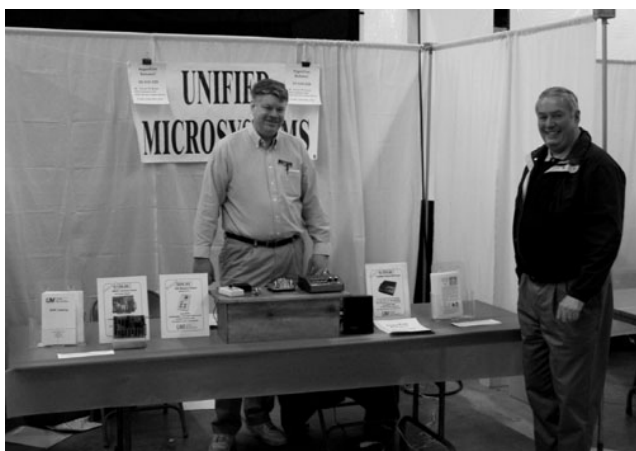


Leon (K9GCF) spent some time at the ORC table bragging about his second place vic-

tory and the antenna he won in the AES transmitter hunt.



One of the 9 Red Cross Communications Vans – Wow – 14 different communications mediums – impressive.



In among the ICOM's and MFJ's was our own Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT) representing Unified Microsystems and promoting his contesting CW & Voice Keyer to Ron Gorski (N9AU), a fellow contester.

Tips, Tails & Tools

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee's version of the Communications Opportunity, Promotion and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006 includes an amendment requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. The panel voted April 26 to send the much-talked-about "telecoms rewrite" bill to the full House for its consideration. "Outstanding

news!" was the reaction of ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "This is a major victory for the ARRL," he exulted, noting that the amendment "received significant opposition" from utility companies.

Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), proposed the amendment, and, with the support of Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX), the committee agreed by voice vote to include it in the bill. "This puts the House Energy and Commerce Committee on record as having concerns about BPL interference," Sumner said.

Our Membership – Part 1

A review of the characteristics of our membership body reveals some very interesting facts. For example:

How Many?

Total Membership (02/06) = 117 (100%)
Full Membership = 97 (83%)
Family Members = 20 (17%)
Couples = 36 (31%)

Summary: The ORC continues to grow each year and is truly a family organization as evidenced by almost a fifth of the membership being related to another member and almost a third of the membership being couples.

Where From?

Oz County = 72 (62%)
Washington County = 13 (11%)
Milwaukee County = 14 (12%)
Other WI Counties = 10 (8%)
Out of State = 9 (7%)

Summary: The ORC has programs and projects that appeal to more than just Ozaukee County residents in that only 60+% of the members are from Ozaukee and about a fourth of our membership comes from immediately adjacent counties.

What Class?

Technician/Novice = 48 (41%)
General Class = 18 (15%)
Advanced Class = 6 (5%)
Extra Class = 45 (39%)

Summary: There would seem to be a large pool of potential candidates (41%) in the membership interested in a class for the FCC "General Class" license so as to earn HF privileges. It appears that most who have a General Class license continue on for an "Extra" class license (39% of membership). It also appears that we could use more programs & projects directed at the Technician Class 40% of our membership.

How Long A HAM?

5 or more years = 72 (62%)
4 years = 16 (14%)
3 years = 12 (10%)
2 years = 10 (9%)
1 or less years = 6 (5%)

Summary: About a forth of our membership have been a HAM for only 3 years or less. This would indicate a great opportunity for a strong "mentoring" program to assure these new Ham's continue on in the ranks of amateur radio and the ORC.

ARRL Member = 69 (71% Full Members)

It appears most of our member's stay informed via QST and support legislative "lobbying" efforts through their membership.

Interesting, don't you think? Does this data explain anything about the Club? Does it answer any of your questions? Does it in any way move you to get more involved? Next we will look at the indicated interests of the responding members.

For Sale, Trade or ?

Brand New – Never Used – ICOM 7000 – Call Ray, W9BUJ, at 262-377-5777

Program

Gary, WI9M, will present a program about "FCC Licensing, and what the FRN means to You" at the May 10th ORC meeting.

A Portable 100 Watt HF Station

It all started with retirement. After being retired for awhile you start to notice certain work-related things that have not been used for years but you just could not discard. And there the project begins.



A well-worn sample case and an aversion to discard anything were the start of the HF portable station.

There was a day when I would lug samples of small gel/cell batteries with me on sales calls and for that task I had a leather covered carrying case that measured 18" l X 13" h X 7"w – just the perfect size to contain a portable HF station.

If it's going to be portable, it has to have a battery and the one from my Harley was just the right size both physically and in capacity (12 Ah). This would also allow connection of my 50-watt solar panel to maintain the battery on sunny days. To recharge the battery from the mains I could use a small 14 VDC, 4 amp switching power supply salvaged from a laptop computer.

The rig to be used was the ICOM 706-MKIIIG from my truck. Since this has no automatic antenna tuner, I chose to include a small Heathkit tuner I picked up at Grayslake. I added a neon lamp to the tuner to aid during the antenna tuning process.

I also included a Midland SWR meter which I again, picked up at a swapfest for a couple of dollars.

The only remaining items to include in the station were the key, mic, headset and manuals.

Now the case had to be partitioned and made to accommodate all the desired items. Naturally, the battery being the largest and most weighty item controlled the partition layout.



Notice there are two sets of leads with Anderson Powerpole connectors from the 12 Ah AGM battery. This allows the battery to supply the transceiver while also being charged by either a 14 VDC power supply or a solar panel.

The battery used was an Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM) lead acid battery from my Harley that contains no liquid acid allowing that it can be mounted on it's side. Note that it is well ventilated and mounted within a plastic liner.

The right hand compartment was fitted with support rails and a lid thus providing a lower storage area. This lower compartment was used to store the SWR meter, charger, cables and an assortment of coaxial connectors. The lid is then placed over the lower compartment and an



The station includes a 12 Ah AGM battery, ICOM 706 MKIIG, SWR meter, key, mic, and antenna tuner. Note that Anderson Powerpole connectors are used throughout.



It all fits and the lid will close.

upper compartment is formed in which the ICOM 706 MKII G is stored.

Is it really portable? Well it has a handle on it but I carry it using both hands.



Boy Scouts using the portable HF station at the Jackson Town Hall at the Radio Merit Badge day. The antenna was a portable 18AVT vertical and a solar panel was used to maintain the battery.

ORC Swapfest – May 5th

This is our annual moneymaker and a major group project. Setup will be Friday evening starting at 6PM. The doors open to vendors at 6AM and buyers at 8AM on Saturday morning.

There will be a roundtable of Presidents from area clubs at 08:30 AM. Also for the first time we will have a series of forums.

9:00 AM to 9:45 - VHF & UHF DX by Ken Boston, W9GA

10:00 to 10:45 – Moon Bounce and Meteor Scatter Software by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

11:00 to 11:45 – Beginners HF Antenna I Covenants by Ron Gorski, N9AU

There will also be a greater number of door prizes this year. Among other items we have ICOM caps and shirts, “gel/cell” batteries, CQ subscriptions, ARRL publications, battery minders, etc. and a grand prize of an ICOM HT. A memorable array of prizes.

There will be an ORC scholarship table so items that you may want to donate for sale with the proceeds to the scholarship fund should be given to Ed Rate (AA9W) at that table.

If you have items to sell but not enough to warrant a table, just leave them with Tom (W9IPR) at the Club table. The items will be sold from that table with a 10% commission to the Club operating fund. Be sure to identify your items and specify the minimum price so as to allow some negotiating room.

The swapfest has been very well publicized with flyers at AES and area swapfests – over 750 flyers. In addition, Mark Potash has developed a mailing list of 800 area HAMS to whom he sent post card announcements. We should have a great gate so come early to browse and volunteer to make this 2006 Swapfest another great success.

Upcoming Events

May

5th Opportunity Day @ Parkview School

6th ORC Swapfest at Circle B

10th Membership Meeting

19th-21nd Dayton Hamvention

21st Tour de Cure

June

1st Board Meeting

2nd River Cleanup

4th Miller Lite Ride for Life

11th 6 Meter Club of Chi Swapfest @ DuPage Fairgrounds in Wheaton IL

14th Membership Meeting

10th-12th ARRL VHF QSO Party

24th -25th Field Day

July

8th South Milwaukee Swapfest

8th-9th IARU HF World Championship

9th Fox River Radio League Swapfest @ Aurora IL

12th Membership Meeting

28th & 29th VHF Society Conference @ Bloomington MN

Club Static

Governor Doyle signed the Proclamation designating June 24, 25, (Field Days) as Amateur Radio Operator Recognition Days. He was very cordial to the Amateurs in attendance (KC9HHX, KG9NG, N9ROY, N9TWA, and W9IXG) and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the citizens for the services we provide the State. He solemnly read aloud the entire proclamation before signing it. The proclamation is now on display at Wisconsin Emergency Management in Madison. A photo of the event at the Capital is on the Wisconsin ARRL website.

Until most recently, Wisconsin has been Broadband Over Powerline (BPL) free. That is still true except for Washington Island. At Washington Island, there exists a small electric power co-op that, like all rural electric cooperatives, is regulated by the federal government and not by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. They were approached by a BPL company, IBEC, to install a system over their network to provide high speed Internet for their customers. This has raised the concern of one Amateur who runs a B&B hotel catering to Amateur operators who desire a peaceful vacation and the use of nice operating stations in a low noise RF environment. He asked for ARRL help. (from the ARRL newsletter) So who do you know that this affects? One of our members, Dean Jeutter (K3GGN), has a place on Washington Island where the family spends the summers and Dean does some "hamming". Perhaps it's time we get involved. Did you send Rep. Sensenbrenner Jr. A letter about co sponsoring the House Resolution 230? A sample is available from Don Michalski (W9IXG) web site and the address is www.arrl.org/sectons/?sect=WI

Rep. R. James Sensenbrenner Jr.
120 Bishops Way, Room 154
Brookfield, WI 53005-6271



Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT) was presented the "Radio Art Advancement" award by President Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR) at the April Meeting.

Miller Lite Ride June 4th

The public service season is upon us. This year's Miller Lite Ride for the Arts will take place on June 4th. This is a busy weekend for events, so please mark your calendar now! This event has routes north and south of downtown Milwaukee. The southern routes are 15 and 25 miles. The northern routes are 5, 50 and 75 miles. The finish line will be at Summerfest. The 50 & 75-mile routes will have pace cars and a SAG vehicle has been added to the southern routes. Along with the other SAG and Sentry Captain vehicles, this event needs lots of vehicle mobile operators. Here's your chance to try out your vehicle portable equipment. There are plenty of rest stop and intersection assignments as well. This is a BIG event and we need as many volunteers as possible. Volunteers will once again be treated to BBQ lunch hosted by 'Dr. John' following the event. This means no worries about missing out on the finish line activities while finishing your assignment for the day. Please send your name, call sign, phone number, email address and T-shirt size to any of the folks below. John Kopmeier... kopmeier@msoe.edu Jeananne Bargholz... N9VSV@wi.rr.com; Mark Tellier... ab9cd@arrl.net Shirts, maps, etc. should be

available at the May ARES meeting [but you don't need to be an ARES member to volunteer]. 73's John, N9ZJD Gary, N9UUR Jeananne, N9VSV Mark, AB9CD

The



Column

By Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), Editor

HOT NEWS: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Bill Stolte (N9VBJ) has been lured away to head up Emergency Management for Waukesha County, and he started there on 1 May. Mary Fitzgerald (KB9NBW) is Acting Director, with Jack Morrison (N9SFG) as her assistant. Our county's timeline is to have a new EM Director in place by 1 Sep, but there are also talks about Stolte heading both counties, with a local EM Director under his tutelage. I will keep you informed as things develop. Your editor has been asked to be on the committee that interviews candidates, so I should be aware of happenings as they happen. Also, your editor has resigned from the HazMat Team and as Deputy Director of Emergency Management. This was not at all associated with Stolte's leaving; rather, it was something I planned for a long time in conjunction with my 70th birthday (this April 28th). OZARES marches on, and will continue to do so!

BIKE FOR WISCONSIN

Sponsored by the Bike Federation of Wisconsin, OZARES has been asked again to supply communications for this annual event. There will be a ham at the Command Center at Cedarburg High School, another at each of three rest stops, and one in each SAG vehicle (the number of SAGs has not been determined yet). The event runs from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, 17 September 2006. Mark your calendars and let Jon know if you can volunteer.

TRAFFIC TRAINING

The second phase of the two-part vehicular traffic training was held at our last meeting, 27 April. Our own Ray Vollrath (WD9HOD) and Frank Even (Director, Cedarburg Emergency Government) were the instructors. It was an excellent session, with some practical stuff in the parking lot after the classroom training. Did you know:

59% of all police officers that died in the line of duty in 2004 were killed by "struck-bys" while working traffic on our highways! It is definitely dangerous out there, and the training we received will help to keep us safe if we are controlling traffic for the Sheriff, or even working in traffic while communicating.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLE

There is still need for ideas on equipment to be included in the vehicle, and ideas concerning replacement of the generator. There will be need for persons to be certified as drivers as well as system operators, too, so keep that in the back of your mind as the vehicle is prepared for service.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

OZARES nets are held each Thursday at 8:00 p.m., except on meeting nights. 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.

04 May	WB9RQR (sub for KC9FZK)
11 May	K9GCF
18 May	AA9GT
25 May	meeting 7:00 PM

01 Jun	WJ9O
08 Jun	WI9GC
15 Jun	KC9GDV
22 Jun	No Net (Field Day!)
29 Jun	WD9HOD

Minutes— April 12th, 2006

De Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK

At the meeting before the meeting, two laptop computers running the N3FJP logging program for ORC Field Day were on hand for members to test.

President Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR) called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Program: Communication and the Red Cross Disaster Response by Steve Buck (N9EAL) **Steve, head of disaster communications for the Red Cross in**

Wisconsin, spoke of the need for planning for disaster relief before a disaster occurs. Hams can be of assistance by handling communications in shelters, relaying requests for supplies and other needs. They can also help by information gathering for the Red Cross about dangerous situations in their area. If interested in volunteering,ARES/RACES is one organization to join.

Auction: Stan (WB9RQR) held an auction of donated equipment.

Break: The group enjoyed a short break.

Business Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as presented to the membership at the meeting. The motion passed. A Post Everything Party financial report was included along with the monthly report given by the Treasurer Tom (AA9XK).

Nels (WA9JOB) said the 224.18MHz repeater with the link is working fine and the 443.75 MHz is still underused. The .97 repeater recently exhibited noise, which was traced to microphonics from a fan. The problem was solved temporarily by hanging the fan from wire.

Jon (KB9RHZ) said the van donated to OZARES is now owned by Ozaukee County and is in the process of being fitted out. The generator needs work and he is looking for donations of 2 meter, 220 and 440 radios. The next OZARES meeting will be at 6:30 P.M. on April 27, continuing the traffic control training.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: New flyers have been created. Ten people signed in at AES and Paul (KD9FM) said they have been contacted.

Public Relations Committee: Several upcoming events were mentioned: River Fest Cleanup, in June, Tour de Cure in May and the Great Midwest Relay in April. Mark (AB9CD) explained what happens at the GMR and, if interested in helping, please call him.

Youth Program Committee: Bill (KA9WRL) said 67 scouts earned their Radio Merit Badge and that some twenty boys were very interested in the hobby. On May 5, Tom (W9IPR) will talk about Amateur Radio as a hobby at Cedarburg's Parkview School's Hobby Day.

Swapfest Committee: As of this evening, Gene (KB9VJP) has received money for just ten tables. According to Tom (W9IPR) flyers were handed out at the AES plus postcards have been sent to previous participants, other clubs and a large number of hams in the surrounding areas. Let the committee know if

you will need a table to sell your own stuff or if you will add something for the club table.

Field Day Committee: Leon (K9GCF) reported the committee had met. They are planning strategies to increase the scores at field day while electrical and tower systems will be re-worked. There will be extra tents on hand for sleeping. Also, Ed (AA9W) will be the frequency coordinator.

Scholarship Committee: Ed (AA9W) said the Scholarship Committee could use four tables at Swapfest to hold all the wonderful donations recently acquired. The proceeds from these items will go to the Scholarship Fund.

Old Business: None

New Business: The chair entertained a motion to drop the phone line service to the repeater site. A motion was made and seconded. After discussion, the motion passed. The chair entertained a motion to drop insurance coverage of the electronic equipment the club owns. A motion was made and seconded. After discussion, the motion passed.

Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show and Tell, Etc. Stan (WB9RQR) brought a 2-meter J-pole antenna he made and will be installing at his home. James (KA4UPW) brought an Antenna Smith and explained how it works. Tom (W9IPR) brought an RFI Locator that he made. Terry (KA9RFM) had also made a J-pole antenna 25 years ago and it still works great. Jim (K9QLP) said he made a contact in England using Echolink. The railroad net also meets on that repeater.

Tom (W9IPR) presented the "Radio Art Advancement" Award to Gary (W9XT), since it could not be presented at the PEP.

Attendance: Thirty members and eight guests attended. Members: Nancy KC9FZK, Stan WB9RQR, Tom W9VBQ, Ed AA9W, Kent N9WH, Dave N9UNR, Mike KC9GDV, Nels WA9JOB, Bernie AA9CI, Jim K9QLP, Herb WA9UVK, Terry KA9RFM, Wil KB9HHR, Leon K9GCF, James KA4UPW, Jon KB9RHZ, Tom W9IPR, Tom AA9XK, Roger W9UVV, Mark AB9CD, Paul KD9FM, Gary W9XT, Ray W9KHH, Mike WJ9O, Ron W9BCK, Ray W9BUJ, ChuckWA9POU. Don W9VSC, Ted N9LLT,

Guests: Bill KA9WRL, Gene KB9VJP, George Kalenbach, Andrew Hilins, Keith WA9YWK, Dick AB0VF, Mark N9KEV, Kate KB0SIO, and guest speaker Steve N9EAL.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

AGENDA

May 10th, 2006

1. Call to order – Tom (W9IPR)
2. Introductions.
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
4. Program: FCC Testing & You – Gary, WI9M
5. Fellowship Break
6. Auction.
7. Acceptance of Minutes as printed.
8. Treasurer's report – Tom (AA9XK).
9. Repeater report – Nels (WA9JOB)
10. OZARES report – Jon (KB9RHZ).
11. Committee reports.
 - Membership –
 - Public Relations –
 - Youth Program –
 - Swapfest -
 - Field Day –
 - Repeater -
12. OLD BUSINESS
13. NEW BUSINESS
14. Adjournment to ?

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The ORC Newsletter

465 Beechwood Drive
Cedarburg WI* 53012

First Class

Elmering Session starts at 6:45 PM

Next ORC Meeting

Grafton Senior Citizens Center

1665 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, May 10th

7:30 PM