



# 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](http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org)

Volume XXVIII

April, 2009

Number 4

## From the President

De Bill Howe II (KA9WRL)

How many of us have a "Go Box"? No, I'm not talking about your cat's litter box; I'm talking about an emergency communications box, complete with an HF or VHF radio, mic or key, tuner or SWR bridge, portable antenna and a battery.

A lot of Hams just depend on their HT's for portable VHF operation, but what if the power goes down and the repeaters crash? Now you're depending on 5 watts, simplex . . . and in many cases that is not going to do the job.

Maybe it's just me, but I think all active Hams should have an HF Go Box. I have one that'll operate QRP CW on battery or shore power, but I plan on building one that'll transmit voice on 100 watts. I know Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR has one. Maybe you do too, but it needs to be updated or outfitted with a new battery.

It doesn't have to be small and compact, although that would be desirable, just as long as it's somewhat portable, i.e.; perfectly able to be transported by one person without getting a hernia!

We do have disasters in Wisconsin, like floods, tornadoes, and, in rare cases, major power outages. The community really does depend on Amateur Radio for communications during these emergencies. It would be great if the ORC could count on more than one or two members to be "on call" when bad things happen.

At the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the question of the month will be; "Do you have a Go Box or are planning on building one?" I hope we have

more than a few positive responses. In future meetings we'll have to show off some of these emergency commo devices!

## Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

The WIQP is history now, but the club's results are not. As has been the case for the past several years 40 meter skip was too long to be useful in working Wisconsin counties, but I found it easy to work states and some provinces for those multipliers. Eighty meters, on the other hand, was quite a bit better insofar as counties are concerned, but not good enough to make up for the 40meter shortcomings. On the positive side, the other clubs had to contend with the same band conditions so perhaps their scores will be down as well. Time will tell, but in spite of all the negatives I had a great time for 7 hours, and look forward to better conditions next year.

As for the club's history regarding this year's WIQP, it's yet to be written because I chose the wrong time to change ISPs. I suspect that some of the operator's responses went to my old address, and ended up in the H-net dead letter office, and others are trapped in my computer which is in the hospital at the West Bend MPC store for the upgrade necessary to make it compatible with my new in-house networking system. In the meantime I'm using Jean's computer and the missing 6 or so entries are not in it. Here's what we have so far, complete report next month:

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| W9LO  | 91,368       |
| N9FH  | 52,380       |
| WI9M  | 28,912       |
| W9VBQ | 19,688 (QRP) |

WQ9N 4,140  
196,488

Coming up in April:

April 9-19(?) Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO  
Party Rules at [www.arths.com](http://www.arths.com)

April 11-12 Georgia QSO Party  
Rules at [www.gqp.contesting.com](http://www.gqp.contesting.com)

April 14 VHF Spring Sprints  
Rules at [www.sysadnet.com](http://www.sysadnet.com)

April 22 HF Spring Sprints  
Rules at [www.sysadnet.com](http://www.sysadnet.com)

April 25 Florida QSO Party  
Rules at [www.floridaqsoparty.org](http://www.floridaqsoparty.org)

I haven't kept up with the details of most of the state QSO parties, but I received a nice letter from a Georgia guy who worked the WIQP. As it turns out, that party runs for 30 hours and includes 160 meters, which makes it very interesting from my point of view. We often have a pipeline into Georgia from here on 40 & 80, and when you add 160 to the mix it becomes even more interesting. I'm going to give it a shot. And since K9GCF made a special trip to WI to work our party, it's only appropriate that we should return the courtesy and support the Florida party.

Have fun contesting.

## VHF & UHF Corner

De Todd Sprinkmann (KC9BQA)

There are numerous VHF/UHF activities to mention this month.

ORC members W9GA Ken and I will be in attendance at AES Superfest both this Friday and Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be manning a table on behalf of Wisconsin's only All VHF/UHF radio club, the Badger Contesters. ([www.badgercontesters.org](http://www.badgercontesters.org)) So if you come to Superfest, make sure to stop by and say hello.

It is also very likely that Ken and/or I will be doing an in-depth presentation on our specialty, VHF/UHF

"weak-signal" work, and VHF/UHF contesting at the ORC Swapfest on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. I will share more info about that with the ORC Yahoo email reflector when we know more.

A 2 meter sprint will be held on the evening of Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, from 7-11pm. This is the Spring Sprint and in the Midwest, we especially like to support it because the host is John Kalenowsky, K9JK. VHF/UHF'ers know John as a dedicated rover who goes mobile in contests and activates different grid squares for everyone's operating enjoyment.

So get on for the 2 meter sprint. Just like so many of you in ORC and all across SE WI did for the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. SSB and horizontal polarization preferred near 144.200 MHz, but also FM mode on 146.55, 146.565 or 146.58 MHz. Get on the air with what you have and make some contacts. If you're new to VHF contesting, a sprint is a perfect time for a low-key, low-stress introduction to what's going on. The link for the sprint rules is at: <http://www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprintrules.htm>

The on-air activity continues with the SSB and FM simplex nets I personally host each week. SSB is on 144.250, USB mode, and I start up at 8:30pm every Wed. night. Thur. night is FM night, and that's at 8:30pm, on 146.43. All ORC members are welcome to say hello or simply listen in. The nets are very low-key; the only purpose is to create activity on lesser-used portions of the 2 meter band. You may stay as long or as little as you like.

Because of the popularity of the nets (at least 200 unique check-ins since I started things up in July/August of 2008), I'm moving forward on getting my own website. In fact, just today, I registered a domain name and purchased a year's worth of hosting via [www.qth.com](http://www.qth.com). Gary, W9XT wrote an article for the ORC newsletter about this process back in January.

Now I know next to nothing about websites, other than how to click on one. So this is going to be an interesting experience! But my hope is that soon, I will learn how to post at least basic content (via the WordPress format) to [www.kc9bqa.com](http://www.kc9bqa.com). A few of you have even been brave enough to ask me for website advice. My advice is that you're asking the wrong guy! In fact, I've got a good headache just from thinking about the whole learning curve. I trust I'll get up to speed in time.

The several dozen of you who follow my posts via the ORC Yahoo remailer will still get updates, but they will be far shorter. Over time, I will try to make

[www.kc9bqa.com](http://www.kc9bqa.com) the megaphone thru which I promote increased activity on VHF/UHF thru the whole Midwest. This change has very little to do with the recent discussion on Yahoo; I have known for some time I'd need a website.

Hope to see many of you at Superfest.

## Post Everything Party

Again the Post Everything Party was a great time. Attendance seemed to be down a bit but enthusiasm was high none the less.

Among the awards voted by the membership and presented were the 2008 Turkey award presented to President Bill Howe, KA9WRL and the HAM of the Year award presented to Nels Harvey, WA9JOB.



Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, is shown here accepting the ORC HAM of 2008 award at the PEP party. The HAM award is a traveling trophy

presented to the ORC member elected by a secret ballot of the membership.

The Board also presented the ORC Club Service Award to Nels Harvey for his years of effort at repeater maintenance and as an officer of the club.



President Bill Howe, KA9WRL, is shown here accepting the ORC Turkey of 2008 award from Past President Mike Yuhas, AB9ON. The Turkey award is a “good guy” award and is determined by a secret ballot of the general membership.

There were several other awards to be presented on behalf of the Board but the recipients were not in attendance to receive them so they will be presented at an upcoming meeting.



Naturally one of the highlights of the evening was the “clean out the shack” mystery gift exchange. The “gifts” ranged from antenna manuals and yoke testers to disk drives and a talking trophy fish.



Entertainment was really excellent as provided by Gary Clausing on the keyboard and President Bill Howe on the banjo.

## Hamcation 2009

De Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR

We were in Lakeland FL at the time of the Orlando Hamcation swapfest etc. and again, we just couldn't miss it. I went with a couple of guys from the Sun-n-Fun fly-in event where we were volunteering and really had a good time. While there we did see Leon (K9GCF) and a few others from the HAM world. The crowd didn't seem as large nor did there seem to be as many outside vendors as in the past however, it was still a good time.

I went on both Friday and Saturday and try as I might I didn't really find much that I just had to have. I think much of the good stuff is going on e-Bay now at higher prices than customary at hamfests.



There was a crowd of about 100 awaiting the opening of the gate on Friday at noon.



The outdoor flea market is where I tended to spend my time. Although I didn't buy much I did get a few ideas for junk box projects.

Finally I did buy an HP 400EL AC voltmeter although I am not sure why - but it's a nice one. Here's looking forward to Hamcation 2010.



There was one very large indoor facility dedicated strictly to “amateur” swapmeet sales and swapping. It really was quite impressive with a number of club and special interest tables.



There were two large indoor facilities dedicated to commercial vendors and AES was there in full force since they have an Orlando store. Also note that Tom, the sales manager from the Milwaukee store was there.

## ORC Swapfest @ Circle B

De Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR

It's about upon us again – the annual spring ORC Swapfest. It will be May 2<sup>nd</sup> again at Circle B recreation center. We will be having a committee meeting on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at W9IPR's home at 7PM if you would like to come. So far we have 17 members committed to help so if you would like to volunteer, give me a call.

We will be having about 5 tables for the scholarship fund items and another as the ORC consignment table. If you have some items to sell but cannot justify a table then bring it to the ORC consignment table and sell it with a 10% commission to the club operating fund.

## Project of the Month

De: Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)



The mobile base for the obsolete Weber gas grill was converted to an excellent mobile workbench. It could also be used as a station work position for field day. Waste not, want not.

## Tips, Tails & Tools

Looking for a specific transformer for the speaker in an antique radio? Look for the transformer used with PA systems. They have multiple impedance primary and speaker output windings. I needed a 5000 or 500 ohm primary to 8 ohm secondary transformer and the PA system universal transformer I found at the Orlando swapfest worked perfectly.

Tom, W9IPR

## Junk Box Product

De Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR

There has been no project submitted this month as a product of a personal “junk box”. Now it has occurred to me that there may be a number of Newbie's that are not familiar with a legitimate “junk box” in the typical HAM shack. To

that end, familiarizing the Newbie with how to build a junk box, I am providing the following examples. As you will note, the junk box need not actually be a box but its nature is readily identified.



Here is shown the Stage 1 junk box. Note that in this case it is not a box but plastic bins and they are not filled with junk but yet to be disassembled good stuff that was either very inexpensive, free or not working.

be sorted into types of items as shown here for panel meters.



Another category may be variable capacitors and inductors with a few related items mixed in to best utilize shelf space.



This is an example of the "metals junk box". It is filled with scrap sheets of aluminum etc. and cabinets/box's and brackets and shields from disassembled good stuff. These materials can always be used to make new panels, shields and enclosures for new projects.



As the shack matures you may find that there is sufficient stock for a "junk box" that it can



**You will note here that “junk box” destined items may initially be intermixed with really good stuff on commercial shelving.**

There are only a few guidelines to building an inventory of “junk box” items that you can be proud of.

First – don’t throw things away. Disassemble them to salvage and keep the useful components.

Second – accept all free stuff.

Third – attend all swapfests within 75 miles.

Fourth – buy everything at swapfests that is less than \$1.00

Fifth – don’t be too proud to dumpster dive at the end of a swapfest.

Sixth – always offer to help fellow HAM’s clean out their basement.

Attend all ORC meetings and bid fifty cents on all items auctioned.

That’s about it. Now that you know how to build a “junk box” inventory I will expect to see some of the products of that effort here in the newsletter.

## **For Sale, Trade or ?**

SCHOLARSHIP FUND ITEMS FOR SALE (partial list)

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| HEATHKIT Frequency Counter IM 4110          | \$ 20 |
| LEADER Oscilloscope LBO-502                 | \$ 40 |
| B&W Dummy Load/Wattmeter model 374          | \$ 25 |
| ALPHA DELTA -2 Antenna Coax Switch          | \$ 25 |
| QRP Transmitter in Altoids Tin Box          | \$ 15 |
| ICOM Communications Receiver Model IC-R7000 | \$325 |
| Powered Pair of Speakers                    | \$ 5  |
| WHITE ROCK Paddle Key Model MK-44           | \$ 15 |
| KILL-A-WATT Wattage Monitor Model P4400     | \$ 15 |
| WELLER Soldering Station Model TC202        | \$ 15 |
| KAY Attenuator Model 30-0 Model 432D        | \$ 30 |
| ICOM FM Handi Model IC-T7A                  | \$100 |
| ICOM FM Handi Model IC-T81A                 | \$100 |
| UNIDEN BEAR CAT TRUNK TRACKER II 300        | \$ 50 |
| TECTRONICS 2235 Oscilloscope                | \$150 |
| MFJ Intellituner Antenna Tuner Model MFJ993 | \$135 |
| ASTRON Power Supply Model ss-30M            | \$ 35 |
| DRAKE Low Pass Filter                       | \$ 35 |
| DRAKE Wattmeter Model W-4                   | \$ 60 |
| J-38 Key                                    | \$ 35 |
| ICOM IC706 MK II Transceiver                | \$575 |
| VIBROPLEX Bug Key Model Original Deluxe     | \$175 |
| BIRD ThruLine Wattmeter w/Slugs, case       | \$425 |
| KENWOOD Antenna Autotuner Model AT-50       | \$125 |
| KENWOOD 220mc FM Transceiver TM-321A        | \$125 |
| ICOM UHF Handi IC-04AT                      | \$ 25 |
| MFJ 6 Meter Tuner Model MFJ-906             | \$ 60 |
| MFJ Sound Card Interface Model MFJ-1279M    | \$ 35 |
| ICOM Handi Charger Model BC-35              | \$ 15 |
| ICOM Handi Charger Model CM-30              | \$ 20 |
| MFJ Noise Bridge Model MFJ-202B             | \$ 36 |
| HEATHKIT Impedance Meter Model AM-1         | \$ 13 |
| HEATHKIT Most Accurate Clock Model GC-1000  | \$ 5  |
| HALLICRAFTER Receiver Model S-38            | \$ 35 |
| LARSEN Antenna Mount Model NMO-150          | \$ 3  |
| HEATHKIT Smart Outlet Model GD-1295         | \$ 15 |
| Panel Meter                                 | \$ 5  |
| FLUKE Multimeter Model 8020B                | \$ 15 |
| SHURE Carbon Microphone Model 104A          | \$ 20 |
| SHURE Reluctance Microphone Model 488B      | \$ 35 |
| ICOM Dynamic Microphone IC-HM10             | \$ 20 |
| ELECTROVOICE Dynamic Microphone Model 664   | \$ 45 |

Contact Ed Rate: [etrade@milwpc.com](mailto:etrade@milwpc.com) to view items!

## **Upcoming Events**

### **April**

**1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> AES Superfest**

**6<sup>th</sup> Swapfest Committee Meeting**

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

**18<sup>th</sup> Madison Swapfest @ Stoughton**

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

### **May**

**1<sup>st</sup> Opportunity Day @ Parkview School**

**2<sup>nd</sup> ORC Swapfest at Circle B**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Hamfest – DeKalb, IL**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting**  
 15<sup>th</sup> – 17th Dayton Hamvention  
 16<sup>th</sup> CQ National Fox Hunt Weekend  
 28<sup>th</sup> OZARES  
 30<sup>th</sup> – 31st CQ WW CW DX Contest  
**June**  
 6<sup>th</sup> TREK 100  
 7<sup>th</sup> Hamfest – Princeton, IL  
**10<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting**  
 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> ARRL VHF QSO Party  
 21<sup>st</sup> 6 Meter Club of Chi Swapfest @ DuPage  
 Fairgrounds in Wheaton IL  
**27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> Field Day**

The



Column

By Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), Column Editor

During the ARES/RACES HF Net of Sun, 8Mar, SEC Gary Payne (N9VE) reported that he recently met with the Johnnie Smith, Administrator of Wisconsin Emergency Management. During that meeting, Smith promised to write WI ARES/RACES into more of the WEM exercises. And during the 22Mar net, Gary mentioned that plans are underway for a GLOBAL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST. Yep, that means worldwide! When it comes, each section (in WI that means the entire state) will have up to two stations participating, and each must be associated with an EOC (Emergency Operations Center, such as we have in the Justice Center in our county). Watch for future info.

At the 26 Mar OZARES meeting, another new member, Wil Parzyszek (K9WIL) was present. Two other guests were present, Al (N9RXD) and a non-ham, as representatives of Miller Ride for the Arts (7Jun). Several OZARES members signed up to help. We also discussed the recent WX Net Liaison with Sullivan WX, and EC Mike Yuhas announced our Thu night nets would be devoted to WX net practice for the next several weeks, in preparation for the upcoming severe WX season.

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.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 02 Apr | KA9PZG  |
| 09 Apr | W9IPR   |
| 15 Apr | *Annual WX Meeting ( <b>Wed</b> 6:30 p.m.); no other meeting this month |
| 16 Apr | <b>no net</b>   |
| 23 Apr | N9WH  |
| 30 Apr | KB9RHZ  |
| 07 May | AA9GT   |
| 14 May | WB9RQR  |
| 21 May | N9SFG28 May Meeting   |
| 04 Jun | N9SQA   |
| 11 Jun | KB9VJP  |
| 18 Jun | AA9W  |
| 25 Jun | Field Day Weekend, no net or meeting.                                   |

\*Annual weather spotting training; see this link for details:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/?n=spotter-schedule>

## Minutes– March 11th, 2009

De Chuck Curran (W9POU)

President Bill Howe opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. Everyone present introduced themselves and also responded to the question of the month, “What ideas do you have for meeting programs/presentations? A variety of suggestions were made and recorded by Bill Howe.

**Announcements:** Jane Rediske, KB9SYI is having spinal surgery.

**Program:** George Steber, WB9LVI presented a very well thought out program on an "Experimenter's RF Spectrum Analyzer. George presented enough detail so the unit he built could be constructed by anyone present at the presentation. A nice PowerPoint presentation was used to share with the group the results of the project and to also show the capabilities of the finished unit. The key part is available on eBay for \$50.00! It is a USB DDS generator that comes complete with all required software. It is made by a company called Softmark located in Australia. The entire Spectrum Analyzer assembly will cost less than \$100.00. Anyone interested can review the October issue of QST, where an entire article was printed on the project.

**Fellowship Break:** Dave, N9UNR sold the 50/50 tickets.

**Auction:** A very large conglomeration of goodies was auctioned off at very reasonable prices. Microscopes, video cameras, new, in the bag resistors, IC's, Simpson 260 VOM's, and computer cases with power supplies were cleared during the evening's auction.

**Acceptance of Minutes** from the last meeting: A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Dave Barrow N9UNR and was seconded by Doug Burghardt N9KG. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Stan Kaplan WB9RQR motioned to accept the report; it was seconded by Dave N9UNR. Motion passed.

**Repeater Report:** Nels Harvey WA9JOB gave the repeater report and we found out that the door to the repeater room in the barn has become jammed. The repeater is still working and has no issues, but the door will need some work.

**Post Everything Party Update:** Tom Nawrot reported via e-mail that Patrice's Grill has been selected to provide the food. Questions and suggestions were made on appropriate table decorations. Nels Harvey WA9JOB explained the details of bringing good items for the exchange. Ladies should bring a gift too, something less than \$10.00. Cindy Douglas KA9PZG will try to put something together for us. Awards will

be passed out. More than 40 people are expected to attend at this time, with tickets still selling.

**May Swapfest:** There was a question raised on the status of the pending swapfest. No report was provided.

**Radio Demonstrations:** Bill Howe, KA9WRL, shared with the group some information on planned Amateur Radio demonstrations at local schools and also at this summer's EAA convention. See Bill for more information

**Wisconsin QSO Party:** Dave Barrow N9UNR reviewed a planned mobile excursion during Sunday's Wisconsin WQSO party. The plan was to develop interest among 5-8 people to go county to county and help generate a large number of contacts for the club effort. Little interest was demonstrated so the event was in jeopardy.

**Dave Knaus:** Dave Knaus N9QA passed away and Nels Harvey WA9JOB, shared with the group some of the significant contributions made by both Dave and his family to the Ozaukee Radio Club's scholarship fund. Many things from Dave will be auctioned at both the May Swapfest and at the Dayton Hamvention. Nels moved to name the scholarship fund after Dave Knaus. It was seconded by Jim Albrinck K9QLP. Dave Barrow N9UNR moved to table the motion and it was seconded by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR. President Bill Howe KA9WRL indicated they would like to discuss this at the club board meeting prior to any further action taking place.

**New Business:** No new business was brought up. Kent Christiansen, N9WH, moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Dave Barrow, N9UNR. Motion was passed.

**March Meeting Attendance:** Stan Kaplan WB9RQR, Jon Gilmore KB9RHZ, Kent Christiansen N9WH, Dave Barrow N9UNR, Jim Albrinck K9QLP, Nels Harvey WA9JOB, Ted Spicuzza KB9PQZ, Roger Zaun W9UVV, Joe Sturmberg KA9DFZ, Milan Mursec N9UJU, Bob Krubsack WQ9N, George Steber WB9LVI, Ron Yokes W9BCK, Bob Truscott W9LO, Hector, Gary Sutcliff W9XT, Mike Yuhas AB9ON, Cindy Douglas KA9PZG, Nancy Stecker KC9FZK, Paul Purcett KC9NHD, Mark Potash KC9GST, Naomi Potash

KC9GSS, Doug Burghardt N9KG, Chuck Curran  
W9POU, Bill Howe, KA9WRL, Tom Murtaugh W9VBQ.

## **AGENDA**

*April 8, 2009*

1. Call to order – Bill Howe (KA9WRL)
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.  
Post Everything Party –  
May Spring Swapfest -  
Scholarship -
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, April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**