



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.



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New Officers for 2014



A new Board of Directors was elected at the January 8th meeting. From L to R in back row; Ken Boston-W9GA (Past President), John Strachota -W9FAD (VP), Dave Barrow-N9UNR (Treasurer) and Brian Skrentny – N9LOO (Secretary). From L to R in the front row; Tom Trethewey – KC9ONY (Rptr. VP), Ed Rate – AA9W (Appointed Trustee), Chuck Curran – W9POW (VP) and Gary Drasch – K9DJT (President).

From the President

De Gary Drasch (K9DJT)



It is a pleasure taking the reins from Past President, Ken Boston. He deserves a big thank you from all of us for leading the club for the past two years. In addition, he continues to serve on the board of directors and is also the head a couple of committees. Thank you Ken!

You are welcome to check the club web site at, <http://www.ozaukeeclub.org/index.php/about-us/orc-appointments>, to see who has volunteered to serve the club for the year 2014. I want to highlight two new members stepping up to the plate. The first is Naomi Berkowitz, KC9YES, who is chairing the Sunshine Committee, and the second is Zack Yatso, KC9ZNR, who is taking over from Glenn Classey, KC9UHP, in issuing name tags at meetings. I thank you.

I had appointed an Audit Committee consisting of Gus(Sandy) Wirth, W9BTN, serving as chair, John Strachota, W9FAD, Bernie Golownia, AA9CI and Jim Albrinck, K9QLP. They immediately went to work and performed the audit on January 27th. Sandy submitted a report which will be presented at the February club meeting. Thank you guys...

We are still in need for someone to chair a Publicity Committee and another person to do the 50/50 Raffle at club meetings. Please let myself or any board member know if you have an interest.

Please keep in mind the ***Annual Awards Banquet*** (previously known as the PEP, Post Everything Party) is coming up ***March 8th, 2014***. We need your reservation by the end of this month, February 28th, in order to have a head count for dinner. Check out the web site for a reservation form... You may even pay for it via ***PayPal***. ***Good Food, good drink and GREAT people! Don't miss it!!!***

We have a couple members who are dealing with some medical issues and I ask everyone to keep them in your prayers. They are Leon Rediske, K9GCF, and Terry Koller, KA9RFM. Also, it was sad to learn of the passing of Bob Frank, N9NRK. Bob was a quiet man who was a regular at club meetings and also Terry Koller's partner at the generators during Field Day. He will be truly missed.

Well, that's about it for now. DXing has been pretty good, Rag Chewing is always good and so is building stuff. What a great winter hobby...staying warm with so many things to do and learn!

73 and God bless,

Gary
K9DJT

Robert (Bob) Frank (N9NRK) - SK
Robert (Bob) Frank (N9NRK) – SK



Bob Frank (N9NRK) passed away unexpectedly January 8, 2014. Bob was born and raised in Theinsville and graduated from the Cedarburg High School in 1956 where he excelled in track. Bob was a US Army veteran of Korea and over the years worked at Automotive and Aircraft and at Snyder Mold,

Bob had a variety of interests which included stock car racing and serving as a volunteer fireman. Bob held a Technician class amateur radio license and was always seen on field day assuring that all the stations had adequate generator power.

Bob's interest extended beyond HAM radio and in addition to his membership in the ORC he was involved in snowmobiling, RC model airplanes and building miniature "hit and miss" engines.

Bob is survived by his wife Jean, his children Michael and Scott and grandchildren. Bob will be missed as an ORC member.

DX'ing & Contesting
De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



I hope you spent some time on the radio in January. I sure had a lot of fun. The ARRL Centennial started on January 1. If you are not up on this event, check the ARRL web site. www.arrl.org

Basically it is a year long event. The call sign W1AW will be used portable from every state. The groups that have been doing the states so far have been very active. I have averaged about 5 different band/mode contacts per state since it started. It has been a lot of fun. I know at least a few other ORC members have been chasing them too. If you missed

the first weeks it is not too late. Each state will repeat later in the year. There is a special award for working WAS with the W1AW portable stations.

Wisconsin's first week is this month. It starts at 0000 UTC on February 12 (Tuesday February 11 at 6:00 PM local). I was lucky enough to be asked to be one of the operators. There are about 15 of us activating W1AW/9. I took off several days of vacation to spend more time on the radio.

Another part of the ARRL Centennial is collecting points for working other ARRL members. Just working another ARRL member is worth 1 point. If the other member is a Life Member the contact is worth 2 points. The W1AW/x stations are worth 5 points. ARRL officials, station appointees and other volunteers are worth more points. The biggest catch is the ARRL president. I managed a quick QSO with ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, for a whopping 300 points.

The other big event that started in January and continues until February 12 is the FT5ZM DXpedition to the rare Amsterdam Island. The crew spent about 9 days sailing from Australia to arrive on the island. They have been very active. At first the pile ups were huge, but have gotten smaller after the second weekend. They will be easier to work as time goes by.

Propagation has been very good. I have manages to work them on all bands from 80-10M except for 12M. ORC President K9DJT has them on at least 3 bands so far. You can check if you are in the log by going to the web site <https://secure.clublog.org/charts/?c=FT5ZM>
Enter a call sign and it will show which bands and modes that station has worked the DXpedition. It might take a day or two for your contact to show up.

The pile ups on W1AW/n and FT5ZM have been pretty large at time. Unfortunately this brings out the worst in some people. Intentional jammers and worse have occurred. Just ignore these lids.

When you come across a station with a lot of callers, spend some time listening to how they are operating. Often times they will be operating split. Usually they will listen up from their transmitting frequency, but occasionally they will listen down. Good operators will state where they are listening after each QSO.

If your rig has a secondary receiver, you are in business. You can set the primary VFO on the other station and put the secondary on your transmit frequency. If you can, listen for the station he his working and call on that frequency when the rare station is ready for more callers. If you don't have a secondary receiver, you can use the secondary VFO or even the XIT control to operate split. Be very careful that you are not transmitting on the other station's frequency. It will bring out the "traffic cops" saying or sending "Up" or "Split", often causing more problems than people calling on the wrong frequency.

One more thing, whether split or simplex, if the station gives out a partial call, and it does not match your call, shut up until he makes the contact with that station. It is amazing the number of people out there who can't tell the difference between KC9 and N5. Also, only give your full call with standard phonetics. Some operators think it is a good idea to just say their last two letters or something like that. It just slows everything down.

There will be some other rare stations on the air in February. S9TF from Sao Tome will be on until February 13. This is by a group of Italian operators and will be on 80-10 meters, CW, SSB and RTTY. There are also a number of smaller operations from other locations.

Contest wise, the big contest is the ARRL DX CW contest on February 15 and 16 UTC. This one has the world working just the US and Canada. Give a signal report and state. DX stations give a signal report and their power. It is interesting to see how many QRP stations you work. Only work DX stations.

The ARRL DX CW contest is one of my favorites and I usually do a serious effort. The W1AW/9 Wisconsin operation covers this weekend. Some of the Wisconsin team will be operating the contest as W1AW/9. I will be handling 10 Meters. We can't compete for the contest but want to give out as many contacts as possible. If you want to work me for the ARRL Centennial during the contest go right ahead. I will work anyone who calls.

The ground hog saw his shadow so we will have 6 more weeks of winter. Personally, with the winter we have been having, I think 6 weeks is optimistic. Eight or 10 weeks seems more likely. At any rate, the combination of cold weather, good propagation and lots of interesting stations to work make the next month a good time to spend in front of the radio.



No. 191: The Imminent Death of XP?

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

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skaplan@mcw.edu

Recently I received an email with the following question.

I'm wondering what your plans are to deal with the loss of support for Microsoft XP and discontinuation of Security Essentials in April. Their site suggests buying a new computer with Windows 8. Yikes.

He is correct. As of 8 April 2014, Microsoft will no longer provide new security updates, non-security hot-fixes, technical assistance or online technical content updates. Furthermore, Microsoft will stop providing Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE) for download on Windows XP on 8 April. Office 2003 will also become “unsupported”.

OK, so that is what will be missing. What will not be missing?

First, your copy of XP will continue to work on 9 April, just as it did on 7 April. Microsoft has no way to deactivate your computer or otherwise interfere with the copy of XP on board. They just will not provide any more security or regular updates.

Second, if you have MSE already installed, it will continue to work to protect your machine from malware. Further, MSE will continue to update its anti-malware signature files “for a limited time”, which means that MSE will be fully functional for some “limited time”, which might mean 3 months, 6 months, a year, or any other unspecified span of time. The words “limited time” above are Microsoft’s, and haven’t been further defined insofar as I am aware.

Third, there are plenty of very fine free antivirus programs out there that can be installed in place of MSE, so MSE is no great loss anyway. Here is a list that is in order of popularity by one rating organization: 1. Avast. 2. Panda Cloud Antivirus Free. 3. Zone Alarm Free Antivirus + Firewall. 4. Avira Free Antivirus. 5. Bitdefender Antivirus Free Edition. 6. AVG Free Antivirus. 7. 360 Internet Security 2013. So, uninstall MSE, install one of the others above (my tip: try Avast or 360; 360 is already used by millions in the Orient and has impressed several guru’s). Once you have done that, you have solved that problem well beyond any “limited time” set by Microsoft. Any of the above seven are probably somewhat better than MSE, anyway! (Just remember, only install ONE antivirus program; they do not play well together and will give you grief if more than one is present.) You can uninstall MSE and install one of the others anytime. How about tomorrow?

So, don’t panic. XP will continue to work, though it will be less and less safe to use with time. XP did a pretty good job for millions of us, and we got used to it and did not want to change. Microsoft did not like that; they needed to create new revenue streams and so came up with Win7, then Win8, in much too rapid succession, but we are stuck with that. So, plan on changing operating systems sometime in 2014 or 2015. You don’t have a whole lot of choice.

When you do change operating systems, what should you choose? Windows 7 if you can get it. The word is that it is really a good OS. Do not choose Windows 8. If you must go above 7, choose 8.1. That means, if you do buy a new computer down the line, do not accept it with Windows 8. Demand 8.1, and use the threat of not purchasing the computer if you don’t get it. Windows 8 has been said to be like Vista ... too buggy and hard to tame. That is why Microsoft came out with 8.1.

With regard to Office, I have already written about several free programs that will supply all the functionality of the Microsoft product, and they will even open Microsoft documents and save your creations in Microsoft format. Majorgeeks likes LibreOffice and OpenOffice.org the best.

Again, don't panic. There are lots of choices and there is nothing magic about the 8Apr14 date, other than what is outlined above.

Happy computing.

"I don't know what use anyone could find for a machine that would make copies of documents. It certainly couldn't be a feasible business by itself."

-The head of IBM, refusing to back the idea, forcing the inventor to found Xerox.

Understanding Test Equipment©

de Gary Drasch, K9DJT



At this point we've discussed voltage and resistance measurement using a DMM (Digital Multimeter) and even some convenience features such as Min-Max, Touch-Hold and diode check. So it's about time we take a look at the third piece of Ohms law, current, using **A** as the symbol on the rotary switch to indicate *Ampere* measurement. As there is AC and DC voltage selection, there is AC current and DC current selection. Some instruments might also provide a better resolution by supplying a milliampere or microampere selection. Typically, the maximum current which can be measured directly is 10 amps but that is dependent on the model and brand. Higher currents reaching thousands of amps can be measured using accessories such as *current clamps* or *current shunts*.

Current measurements are primarily used to diagnose performance issues with a piece of equipment or process, e.g., the apparatus you are servicing is working, but not working well. Maybe it's overheating, running too slow or too fast. The point being is that *it is working* and you have a very *good idea of what the current should be*. If you do not have a clue of what to expect, do not attempt a measurement. (This rule holds true to any electrical measurement; if you don't know what value to expect, why bother?) If the equipment you are servicing is dead, non-functional, you should make voltage measurements, or resistance measurements once power is removed and caps discharged. Yes, you could make a current measurement and maybe discover no current being drawn, but if the problem is a short, the current will be sky



high and hopefully you're using a meter which is fused. If not, it could blow up or at minimum fry the insides. Naturally, the severity is dependent on the power you're working with.



The biggest mistake people make with a DMM setup to measure current, is instead of placing the meter *in series with the load*, they place the probes across the load or source. Again, depending on the power you are working with, this situation becomes an extreme safety issue. The DMM or VOM (Volt-Ohm-Meter) has a very low input impedance in the current mode and thus it's like placing a short across the potential. So remember, when measuring current with a DMM/VOM directly...meaning no accessory is being used...place the meter *IN SERIES WITH THE LOAD*, NOT across it. This means you need to break the circuit under test in order to attach the test leads. In addition, you need to place the *RED test lead* into the appropriate current jack on

the DMM relating to the value of current you intend to measure. In many cases there will be a 10 Amp jack and a 400 mA jack.

Next month we'll discuss the application of current clamp accessories and how they extend the range of current measurements when using a DMM. You are welcome to ask any questions on the "ORC Radio Chatter" forum board. I look forward to hearing from you.

73, Gary, K9DJT

Winter Antenna Repair

de Gary Drasch, K9DJT

I finally managed to convince my wife and neighbors that I am truly crazy. My wife for sure! For those of you who are into DXing, you know of a DXpedition to Amsterdam Island in the Indian Ocean. Many of us have been waiting for this rare event for over a year. Well, low and behold they finally arrive on the island and I start trying to work them. But nothing is happening...and I have to admit I expected a little better signal than what I was receiving. And this is all after my modifications to my antenna system! Then it happened...as I am coming down my street while returning home, I notice my beam was in a different position than it was suppose to be. It was off about 50 degrees. No wonder they were weak. So I compensated for the difference and the next day it was an additional 30-40 degrees off! My mast had loosened in the rotor...and ultimately I find the antenna pointing straight south with the coax loop on the east side of the tower, and the rotor was at full south, but on the west side of the tower. It turned a full 360 degrees!

There was only one thing I could do if I wanted to work FT5ZM, and that was to go up the tower. My XYL said, "No!" I replied I heard somewhere that winter was the best time to work on antennas. She again said, "No!" But they're going to be leaving on February 12th! All of a sudden the solution came to me. I needed to wait for her to go to work for a full day and that was going to be Friday. If the sun is bright and if there is very little wind, I was bound to do it. As it turned out the antenna gods were good to me. Barely any wind and the temperature was about 50 degrees in the sun. Long underwear, a couple of layers of fleece, a Gore-Tex parker and I was climbing! When I arrived at the rotor, I found the U-bolts and set-screw loose. The only thing I could figure is that something changed with the real cold temps we were experiencing. Anyway, I was able to freely turn the mast. I put it back into position and tightened the clamp. Instead of just tightening down the set-screw, I decided to dimple the mast with a battery powered electric drill I brought up. As I started drilling I thought, why not just drill all the way through the mast? I did, and the set-screw became more of a pin than a screw holding the mast in place. Job was done! And the XYL wouldn't know until she came home. The thing is, if I didn't tell her, the neighbors would! The best part is I've worked FT5ZM on three bands, one CW and two SSB, and I'm still going. Still nine days to go...

No one got hurt and I'm still married...

73, Gary
K9DJT

PS and NO...I will not climb your tower during the winter!

Upcoming Awards Banquet

De Ken Boston (W9GA)

As many of you are aware, every year the Ozaukee Radio Amateurs holds an awards banquet in the early spring, which also serves as one of our premier social events. At this banquet, the Ham of the Year, and the Turkey of the

year are recognized, following the balloting to select the candidates that was held at the January meeting of the club.

In addition to these two prestigious awards, the club has a number of other potential awards which may be awarded at this dinner, or at the subsequent meeting. I wish to describe a few of these awards here, and urge the members to contact me, or any of the board members with the name and calls of potential candidates for any of these fine awards. I am going to list a number of them here, with some details extracted from the descriptions given in the club bylaws. Over the past years there have been several of these given out, often to hams who have been repeats over the years, which speaks to the energy and creativity of many in the ORC membership.

Program of the year. This award goes to the member who has provided the club with a fascinating presentation at one of our monthly meetings over the past year. You may nominate an individual who you feel has done the best program at a meeting you attended in 2013.

Committee of the year. This one goes to a group of three individuals (or more) that have best served on a committee that has benefited the amateur community here in the area, by their dedication, energy and willingness to serve us and our neighbors.

Operator of the year. The winner of this award will have demonstrated their value to our ORC membership by their example and motivation towards good operating skills and mentorship.

International Goodwill. This award represents the recipient's efforts towards fostering better foreign goodwill through DX operations, support for DX expeditions and a willingness to help expand the appeal of Amateur Radio in furthering communication with the world.

Contester of the Year. As several of our membership are active in ARRL (as well as CQ and others) radio contests over the year, on HF or VHF, there are opportunities to select that individual who has shown a level of success here in this facet of amateur radio.

Public service award of the Year. This award would go to the individual or group that has provided a significant public service to the community for either an event over the last year, or over a period of time in the recent past.

There are a number of other awards that could be given out, such as Trainer of the Year, Club project, Communications skills, Radio arts advancement, and a few others. I would urge you to visit the club website and look at the link on the bottom of the page for the bylaws. In those bylaws, close to the bottom of the page, you will see a list of all the awards, along with brief descriptions of these awards.

Ken Boston W9GA

Minutes– January 8 th, 2014

Gary L. Drasch (K9DJT) - Secretary

January 8, 2014

President Ken Boston, W9GA, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Announcements/Show-and-Tell:

The subject of awards came up, and president Ken Boston, W9GA, read a list of awards which the club is able to provide beyond the traditional "Turkey" and "Ham of the Year." They are: *Public Service, Radio Art Advancement, Communications and Technical Skills Advancement, International Goodwill, Committee of the Year, Club Project of the Year, Operator of the Year, Trainer of the Year, Technical Project of the Year, Contester of the Year, Presidential, Club Service and Meeting of the Year.*

Program:

In lieu of a program, president Ken Boston, W9GA, first reminded everyone that if they wanted to vote in the election of officers, they needed to be up to date with their dues. At that point he read off the nominating committees slate of potential candidates, and asked for any additional nominations from the

floor. With there being none, Dave Barrow, N9UNR, moved to elect the presented slate as officers for the year 2014. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, seconded the motion, which then passed.

President Ken Boston, W9GA, then handed out ballots for the annual "Turkey" and "Ham of The Year" awards. After the collection, he said the awards will be presented during the Awards Banquet this March 8th.

50/50 Drawing:

Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP, ran the drawing and Mike York, AE9MY, won it. Congrats Mike!

Auction:

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, our resident auctioneer did another fine job. Thank you Stan.

Committee Reports:

1st VP Report: Art Davidson, AC9CD, was not present, but Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP, said the date for the Awards Banquet was set for March 8th.

2nd VP Report: Brian Skrentny, N9LOO, didn't have anything to report.

Repeater VP Report: Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY, reported that the 2 meter and 440 machines were working fine and that the 220 antenna will be going up when the weather permits. Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, said that Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, deserves a big thank you for picking up the antenna from AES. He also said he received a donation of 3/8" helix line for the system.

Secretary's Report/Minutes: Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, made a correction to the minutes stating that Terry Koller, KA9RFM, was not at the same facility as Dave Barrow, N9UNR, but rather at his wife's rehab center; Newcastle Place in Mequon. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, moved to accept last month's corrected meeting minutes and Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Barrow, N9UNR, had emailed four different reports to the membership prior to the meeting which required four approvals. Dave Barrow, N9UNR, moved to accept the November, 2013 treasurer's report. Bill Howe, KA9WRL, seconded the motion. Passed. Dave Barrow, N9UNR, moved to accept the December, 2013 treasurer's report. Bill Howe, KA9WRL, seconded the motion. Passed. Dave Barrow, N9UNR, moved to accept the treasurer's 2013 Year-End report. Kent Christiansen, N9WH, seconded the motion. Passed. Dave Barrow, N9UNR, moved to accept the treasurer's 2013 Balance-Sheet report. Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK, seconded the motion. Passed.

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, questioned paying for the repeater shed; because it was a handshake deal and there wouldn't have been a bill sent. Treasurer, Dave Barrow, N9UNR, said nothing was paid but the \$200.00 stated is a budgeted item.

Old Business:

Bill Howe, KA9WRL, reminded the club that it needs to look into paying for the Swapfest building ahead of time. Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP, said he would look into it.

The Scholarship Committee made \$662.00 at the Waukesha Swapfest last month.

New Business:

Bill Howe, KA9WRL, reported the club will mostly activate the "North Point" lighthouse in the Milwaukee area in 2014 rather than Port Washington. He was reminded to have new QSL's printed, and he replied he was basically out of the present ones. Gary Drasch, K9DJT, question if the Milwaukee area clubs were not doing a lighthouse event...and Bill confirmed they are not.

Adjournment:

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, moved to adjourn and Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP, seconded the motion. Passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Member Attendance:

There were 27 members present with no guests.

An actual attendance sheet is available upon request in a PDF format. Please contact Brian Skrentny, N9LOO, the 2014 secretary, via email at: n9loo@arrl.net

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Drasch, K9DJT
Secretary

AGENDA
Feb 12th, 2014

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Gary Drasch (K9DJT)
3. Introductions.
4. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
5. Program:
6. 50/50 – Kristian Moberg (KC9TFP)
7. Fellowship Break
8. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
9. Presidents Report – Gary Drasch (K9DJT)

10. 1st VP Report – Chuck Curran (W9POU)
11. 2nd VP Report – John Strachota (W9FAD)
12. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY)
13. Acceptance of Minutes- Bryan Skrentny (N9LOO)
14. Treasurer’s report – Dave Barrow (N9UNR)
15. Committee reports.
Other:
16. OLD BUSINESS
17. NEW BUSINESS
18. Adjournment to ?

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The ORC Newsletter
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First Class

Next ORC Meeting
Grafton Senior Citizens Center
1665 7th Avenue, Grafton
Wednesday, February 12th
7:00 PM – doors open
7:30 – Membership Meeting