



# The *ORC* Newsletter

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



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

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## From the President - Field Day & Corn Roast Update

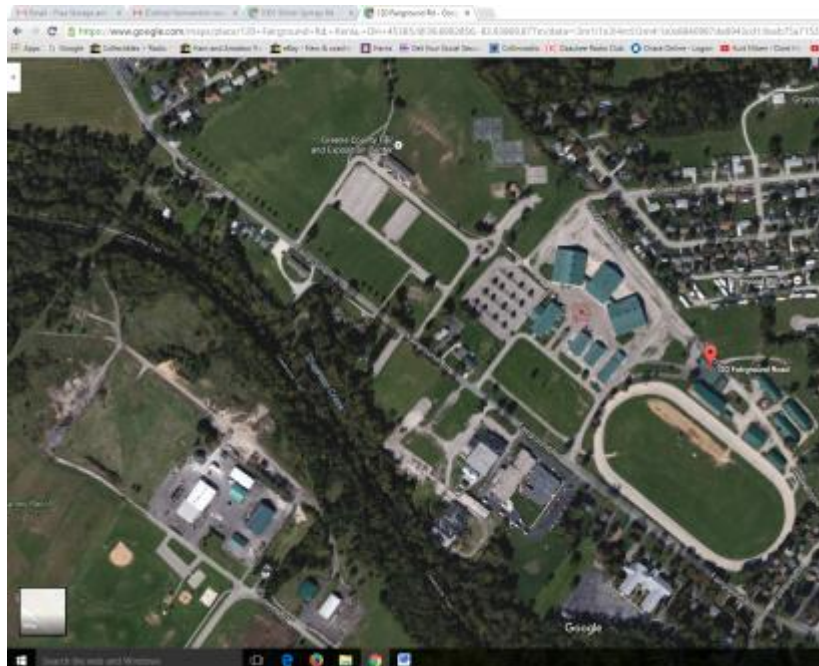
*de Chuck Curran, W9KR*



I have been following the online updates relative to the Dayton Hamvention with great interest. It appears that on August 1<sup>st</sup> the local Dayton Radio and Television stations were given the current news and it was released.

The Dayton Hamvention will no longer be held at the Hara Arena site, due to on-going issues, such as not paying taxes and the family that owned the site having no means for proper repairs and upkeep. I did use Google Maps and checked out the new site, Xenia Fairgrounds, located at 120 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio. My impression was many more smaller buildings than what was present at Hara Arena, but they appeared newer and in better condition. Gee, maybe they even have decent bathrooms? See the picture of Xenia Fairgrounds inserted below.

There appears to be a large grass area on the northwest end of the Fairground, which I am guessing will get chosen as the Flea Market area. I wonder how rain will impact getting vehicles in and out of that area, if it actually used for the Flea Market?



73's to All,  
Chuck W9KR

# DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



The summer doldrums continue, but as we near the end of the month the days will be getting shorter and better HF propagation will begin to return. It is not likely to be as good as last fall as the sunspots continue their drop as we head towards the sunspot minimum. We are seeing that now. A couple of times in July *no* sunspots were observed. As I write this there is only one very small sunspot visible.

The solar flux has been in the low 70's. It usually hangs in the mid 60's at the minimum. For reference, from this part of the world we need it to be at least 100 for 10 Meters to open up to Europe. The minimum should happen around 2020 plus or minus a year or two. The next couple of months would be a good time to start thinking

about improving your low band antennas for the winter season.

Despite the propagation conditions there are a number of DXpeditions planned this month. Here are the more interesting ones.

A couple of Swiss hams will be operating from Cambodia using the call signs XU7AKB and XU7AKD August 9-18. They will be on 40-10, SSB only. With current conditions, 20 Meters is probably the best bet.

A bit better path will be to Tanzania from August 13-22 by a couple of Russian hams. They will be using the call 5H1XX. I could not find much else about this one.

Closer to home is St. Paul Island off the coast of Newfoundland. A group of American and Canadian hams will be operating there as CY9C August 19-28. This large group will cover 160-6 Meters, CW, RTTY and SSB.

Fans of *Mutiny on the Bounty* will recognize the location of the upcoming operation VP6J, Pitcairn Island. This is the island that the mutineers went to live after setting Captain Bligh and the crew loyal to him adrift. Pitcairn used to be pretty active when Tom Christian, a descendent of Fletcher Christian, was on as VP6TC. Tom died about 3 years ago and as far as I know there are no permanent hams there now. Two Japanese operators will be on Pitcairn from August 25 through September 5. They will be active on 160-10 Meters, CW, SSB and RTTY.

There are a couple of Contests of note in August. Last month I mentioned the North American QSO Party (RTTY). The CW weekend is 1800 UTC (1:00PM local) August 6 until 0559 UTC (1259 AM local) on August 7. The SSB weekend starts August 20 at the same times.

The exchange is your name and state. Usual HF contest bands and you can work them once per band.

More info at <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

If you like really, really high frequency contesting, the ARRL 10GHz and Up contest starts August 20 at 6:00 AM local time until midnight Sunday. This one won't result in any 100 QSO/hour rates as there are not a lot of hams on those bands. It is actually pretty popular among the dozen or so area microwave enthusiasts.

Most of them run low power (a few watts at most) and dish antennas a couple of feet in diameter. To increase their range, they like to go to places like the shore of Lake Michigan. The moist air right above the water can form an inversion layer sort of like a natural wave guide. This can result in contacts across the lake.

Most of the contacts are arranged and coordinated on 2 Meters or other frequencies. The operators usually move around to different locations and work each other again. This is one of the few contests this is allowed. If you are interested in this one, it is probably best to hook up with an experienced 10GHz operator and tag along.

August 13 is the start of the CW Worked All Europe contest. Basically it is the world works Europe. It starts at 0000 UTC (7:00 PM local) and runs for 48 hours, but you can only work 36. You probably won't get 36 hours of the bands being open to Europe so you are likely to operate less than that anyway.

You can work each European station once per band. The exchange is the signal report plus a serial number starting will 001.

There is one strange twist in WAE. You can send "QTCs" to European stations and you get a point for each one sent. A QTC is a report of a previous QSO and must include the time, call sign of a station worked and the serial number he sent you.

There are some other things to beware of in the WAE so it would be best to check out the rules at <http://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/>

That wraps up radio activities for the moth. See you on the air.

## The Computer Corner

### *No. 222: How Not To Fix A Computer*

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664  
(262) 268-1949 skaplan@mcw.edu



Gabe called me the other day to ask if I would fix a computer he had gotten from me well over a year ago. It was an older Dell desktop, but still good, if he could only get it to show on its attached monitor. All he was getting was a black screen.

"Sure, bring it over or drop it by and we'll take a look at it", I said. "Nancy and I may not be here over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, so you can bring it then and leave it by my door, or wait to the 5<sup>th</sup>". He came on the 5<sup>th</sup> with it wrapped in plastic in the event I was not home, but I was home and invited him in. We moved to the top of the basement stairs. "Can you manage it, Gabe?" I asked. "Not sure" said Gabe, so I took it from him and together we wrangled off the plastic covering. Then, as I was tucking the computer under my arm at the

top of the stairs, it slipped out of my hands!

Crash, crash, crash, BIG CRASH. It went down, tumbling over and over, skipping over some of the 12 stairs but crashing into others. Finally, it hit the concrete floor of my basement (BIG CRASH), shed its side panel completely and plastic bezel from the front panel, and stopped up against the food shelves. Gabe and I looked at each other in horror!

"Well, I will fix it or replace it", I said. We took it and the loose parts over to the computer bench and I began an examination. It actually looked OK except for a couple of dents in the frame, so I hooked it up and turned it on. It worked! Messages were scrolling on the screen! The BIOS complained its battery was dead and it did not know the date or time, so I turned it off and replaced the coin cell. Back on, and I checked all the BIOS settings and entered the correct date and time. Everything looked good except the installed floppy drive (A:) did not show up in the BIOS. I turned it off again, examined the cables, and found the power cable for the floppy had come partially out. Back in it went and we powered up again. This time, the operating system started, and XP dutifully came up on the screen.

So I fixed Gabe's computer by throwing it down the stairs! He got home later and called me to say it was working perfectly. Maybe the physical crashes reseated the video card so that its gold fingers made proper contact in the socket, reversing a year's worth of oxidation. We'll never know. But it worked, and one does not go on to fix that which is not broke! Please note, however, that I don't recommend that you try this fix yourself!

. Happy Computing!

# Breakfast Pearls

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

"Gregg, I have a problem", I said at the ORC breakfast last week. "I have three TVs and three remotes, but I can only access recorded programs in two of the three". "If I switch remotes between TVs, failure to access recorded programs follows one remote, wherever it is." "It must be a bad remote, wouldn't you think?" I related. "Nope", Gregg said. "The most likely cause is weak batteries". "Weak batteries!" I said, somewhat aghast. "But I can turn on and off the set, adjust the sound, and switch channels just fine with that maverick remote". "How can it be weak batteries?"

Gregg went on to explain that pushing buttons on a TV remote sends a series of coded infrared flashes to the set, and many of the codes are short. Common commands like turning the set off or on, going up a channel or down, and the like, are fairly short codes, and even weak batteries are likely to work. Accessing recorded programs is one of those codes that involve a long series of flashes, and weak batteries often poop out before the last of the flashes are sent. Who would have thunk???

"OK, Gregg, I will try fresh batteries", I said somewhat doubtfully. Of course, he was correct and two new AA cells did the trick. I now have three working remotes for the three TVs.

The point of relating all this is to give just one example of the amazing range of expertise that we have among the members of the ORC, and also a place where that expertise can be readily shared. I probably could have solved many dozens of problems by tapping the expertise of the 14 members that were present that day. And I have even solved a few problems on my own at that remarkable assembly of members on Saturday morning. It is a great place to break bread (or toast) and shoot the breeze, often with solutions one does not readily suspect exist.

But you cannot partake of the fellowship and great knowledge unless you come! Will we see you next week?

## International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend



Once again, we will be participating in the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

<http://illw.net/>

Friday afternoon/evening, August 19th, members of LeFrog and the Ozaukee Radio Club will be setting up a 30' Tower and an A4 Tri-Band Beam on the property adjacent to the Kevich Light in Grafton, Wisconsin. This is private property and we have permission from the owner's, Dave and Mary Bennett.

This is in preparation for the 19th Annual International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend event. Amateur radio clubs and amateurs around the globe will be doing the same type of thing as we attempt to contact other lighthouses. We will be using the W9CQO call sign. Lighthouse US0193 See <http://illw.net/> for more information about the weekend event.

The ORC and LeFrog will be setting up one 20' X 30' Tent, Club Banner and Operating Table next to the Lighthouse. We will be operating, basically on 20m, from 8am Saturday morning, August 20th through Sunday afternoon, August 21st, but not overnight. We'll probably call it quits Saturday afternoon around 5pm and Sunday around Noon.

Along with an HF Radio, which LeFrog will supply, Tom, AA9XK and Loren, N9ENR will be supplying Automatic Antenna Tuners. We'll also have D-Star running along with a dedicated computer for logging. We plan to use the LeFrog's Icom 9100 transceiver.

If you're interested in helping out (setting up and/or operating) we are asking that you contact Bill KA9WRL or myself, Tom KC9ONY, so we have an idea of who will be joining us. We may need help transporting the tower sections, too. You can reach us through the club website mailing system or via the e-mails listed in the club roster.

You're all welcome to join us at the Kevich Light. Bring your own little cooler with drinks of your choice and even a sandwich for lunch. Please park on one side of the driveway and not both. The lighthouse area is off to the right, so leave the left parking areas for the Bennett's.

If you are like some members of the club and do not own HF equipment nor have any experience with HF, don't let that stop you from coming out. We will get you on the radio to try it out. It's all about having fun and learning. If you need directions or talk-in, someone will be monitoring the ORC 2m repeater, 146.970 MHz, (- offset), PL 127.3

This is a non-pressure, non-contest event, so be prepared to just have fun!

Here is a link to a video that Bob KD9AAD made from the event a few years ago. It will give you an idea of the setup we plan to have, and need your help with. <https://vimeo.com/104650619>

WHO: Ozaukee Radio Club and LeFrog  
WHAT: International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend special event station  
WHERE: Kevich Light  
1270 Lake Shore Road  
Grafton, WI 53024-9725

[http://www.bcwaternews.com/Original\\_Content/exclusives/2006/lighthouse.htm](http://www.bcwaternews.com/Original_Content/exclusives/2006/lighthouse.htm)

The lighthouse is located along Lake Shore Road between Falls Road and Lakefield Road in Grafton, Wisconsin.

Take Hwy 60 east as far as you can go, and ends at Lake Shore Road. Hwy 60 becomes Ulaos Road. Turn left (north), and go to the 4th driveway on the right, which is 1270 Lake Shore Road. Click on the Map links below for directions as well.

Maps: <http://tinyurl.com/Kevich-Light-via-Bing>  
<http://tinyurl.com/Kevich-Light-via-Google>

GPS coordinates: 43°19'24.6"N 87°53'18.4"W  
43.323510, -87.888440

WHEN: Friday, August 19th 1pm - 5pm? (until tower is set up)  
Saturday, August 20th 8am - 5 pm operating  
Sunday, August 21st 8am - noon operating  
Sunday, August 21st Noon - 5pm break down equipment

## Wanted and Not Wanted

Tri-bander beam – Cushcraft A3S – good condition – \$125 - contact W9IPR, Ruhlmann  
Heathkit SG-8 RF signal generator – Scholarship fund - \$22 - call W9IPR  
Heathkit “Q” Multiplier QF-1 - \$18 – scholarship fund – call W9IPR  
Hallicrafters S-40B HF receiver - \$75 – scholarship fund – call W9IPR

# Portable mast tilt-up device

De Tim Boppre, KA9EAK



While there are a plethora of portable antenna options available a very popular option is any of a number of different types of wire antenna. Wire antennas are popular for a number of reasons including the fact that they are light and easy to pack, homebrewed\inexpensive, and perform well. However, one problem with them when compared to other antenna types is that they require some means of support. Depending upon the type of wire antenna you will need at least one and possibly two tallish objects to support it.

Thankfully we have trees for just such a purpose. They aren't here to simply hold the soil in place, provide shade and shelter for various critters, and run continuous photosynthesis operations, no they serve an equally important purpose, that being to hold up our wire antennas. The problem is that while we typically have a lot of trees in Wisconsin they may not always be exactly where we need them for our portable operation.

Since moving trees is highly frowned upon by the DNR the prepared Amateur Radio operator will bring their own antenna support devices with them. Some homebrew them from lengths of conduit or PVC, others use Crappie or kite\flag poles. There are also a number of sources for them as well including Max-Gain Systems, MFJ, and Spiderbeam. They come in various lengths and for various loads. Some are push-up while others are tilt-up. Some can simply be attached to a handy picnic table and others simply stood up and guyed. The problem is that all these options require a picnic table or similar anchoring device to be around and/or extra hands to help you guy the pole as you stand it up. What if it's just you and there isn't anyone or anything around to help? This is why I built a portable mast tilt-up device.

I have a Spiderbeam 12m pole that I use to support a couple of end fed wire antennas that I use for my portable station. It's a very nice antenna support device however it is 12 m (40 ft) long and is a bit tricky to erect by yourself. You really need to keep the base anchored in order to avoid undesired antenna erecting drama. To that end I decided to build a device that would allow me to put an antenna up anywhere while allowing me to control the tilt-up\down process.



I've seen some solutions where a length of pipe is attached to a board and placed under a vehicle tire. This solves the anchoring problem but doesn't help with the tilting problem. Searching around I found a very nice solution that was built by KL7JR, "The One Person Antenna Raiser" (<http://www.hamuniverse.com/kl7jrantennaraiser.htm>). This was along the lines of how I was thinking of solving the problem.

Starting with a few boards of Ash and some hardware I started construction.

In order to make the tilting process as boring as possible I built a tilting platform that supports the base of a 36" length of 4" PVC into which the lower portion of the Spiderbeam pole is placed. The base is locked in position by a toggle bolt comprised of an eye bolt on a threaded rod where the eye bolt engages a slot in the tilting base and is held in position by tightening an overgrown wing nut.



The completed device reminded me a lot of the launch platform (MLP) for the Saturn V, though my device is a little shorter and much lighter.



## Upcoming Events & Club Static

The ORC Corn Roast is August 13<sup>th</sup> at Pleasant Valley Park (same place as field day)

**AES is going out of business and will close the doors at the end of the month. The doors will reopen under new management.**

In case you didn't know, the ARRL has recently started (April) a bi-weekly podcast featuring the ARRL "The Doctor is in" writer, Joel Hallas, W1ZR. Each episode is around 20 minutes and they are really well done.

<http://www.arrl.org/doctor> 73, Tim KA9EAK



## Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes

Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2016

Nancy Stecker (KC9FZK) Acting Secretary

President Chuck Curran (W9KR), called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Introductions followed.

### Announcements:

Tom R. (W9IPR) worked 13 special events stations named for the original 13 colonies.  
Gary D. (K9DJT) has a Hints and Kinks article in this month's QST magazine.  
Gabe C. (W9GC) saw an ad for a grill that started the pellets by an app on a smart phone.  
Nels H. (WA9JOB) passed around old photos showing original construction of the repeater shack in the barn.  
Kevin S. (K9VIN) has a new tower up after lots of help by members of ORC.  
Josh S. (KD9DZP) upgraded to General and has made his first contact.  
Jim Albrinck's wife, Sue, made her first contact at Field Day with the help of Zack Y. (KC9ZNR).  
Tim B. (KA9EAK) spoke with the owners of Ham Radio Outlet, scheduled to take over the store vacated by Amateur Electronic Supply

Program: Chuck Curran (W9KR) presented a program titled "Work Bench and Station Rebuild".

50/50: Mark F. (KB9PXE) won the 50/50 drawing.

Auction: Stan K. (WB9RQR) held the auction.

### Officer Reports:

President: Chuck Curran (W9KR) thanked Tom R. (W9IPR) for working at the South West Swapfest and Ken B. (W9GA) for running the 2016 Field Day. Jim A. (K9QLP) and John S. (W9FAD), the Safety Committee, thanked all for being safety conscious but reminded operators they must shut down immediately when told about an approaching storm.

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Kevin Steers (K8VIN) - No report.

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: David Carpenter Sr. (KC9REP) - No report.

Secretary: Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR) – Motion to accept the June minutes was made by Tom R. (W9IPR) and Art D. (AC9CD) seconded it. The motion carried without debate.

Treasurer: Dave Barrow (N9UNR) – A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Dave B and seconded by Art D (AC9CD). Discussion by Tom (W9IPR) followed and the motion was carried.

### Committee Reports:

Corn Roast Committee: Nancy S (KC9FZK) asked for help for the upcoming corn roast on August 13, 2016

Field Day Chairman: Ken B (W9GA) said there was a need for more operators.



Numbers were down from previous years. He thanked all for the set-up and takedown help and for the Friday night dinner.

Scholarship Committee: Tom R (W9IPR) said the South West Swapfest netted \$360 for the Scholarship Fund. Also, he would hold classes if there were 3 or more people interested in obtaining a license.

Old Business:  
No old business.

New Business:  
Bill H (KA9WRL) said the Lighthouse Event is coming up with set-up on August 19 and operating on August 20 and 21 at the Kevich Lighthouse.

Bill S (W9MXQ) asked for help at the "Wheeling For Healing" in the morning of August 13. You can contact him at W9MXQ@ TWC.com

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Kristian M. (KC9TFP) made the motion to adjourn and Stan K. (WB9RQR) seconded it and the motion carried.

Attendance:  
There were 34 members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Stecker KC9FZK  
Acting Secretary

## **AGENDA**

*August 10 th, 2016*

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Introductions. Chuck Curran, W9KR
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
4. Program: Straight Key Night, W9JI
5. 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
6. Fellowship Break
7. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
8. Presidents Report – Chuck Curran, W9KR
9. 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report – Kevin Steers, K9VIN

10. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – Dave Carpenter Sr., KC9REP
11. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY
12. Acceptance of Minutes : Zach Yatso, KC9ZNR
13. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow, N9UNR
14. Committee reports.
  - Lighthouse Activation
  - Fall Swapfest
  - Scholarship
- Other:
15. OLD BUSINESS
16. NEW BUSINESS
17. 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, August 10<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting