



# 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)

Volume XXVI

May 2007

Number 5

## The Prez Sez

By Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR))

Wow! It has really been a busy time "Hamming" these past several days. I am about "Hammed" out.

It all started with a Field Day Committee meeting at my house. The co-chairmen of the event are Leon Rediske (K9GCF) and Ken Boston. I was amazed in that within a week the 18 committee positions were filled. It really looks like a great event scheduled for June 22 -24. To get involved, contact Ken or Leon.

Then it was the Madison Repeater Club swapfest at Stoughton. Nels and I drove there after breakfast April 21<sup>st</sup> and we distributed the last of about 900 flyers for the ORC Circle B Swapfest.



**The Stoughton swapfest has been where we have our last chance to handout ORC flyers. They seemed to have a smaller crowd this year.**

Actually, it was somewhat disappointing. The attendance and number of vendors seem to be down again this year and there were so very

many empty tables. It caused me some concern for our own May 5<sup>th</sup> Swapfest.

We really didn't find anything we needed and considering the \$5 door fee and \$25 worth of gasoline it was essentially a social call to deliver the flyers.

That was followed by assisting the MS Society with their MS Walk here in Cedarburg April 29<sup>th</sup>. It was my first time to assist on this type of event and it was interesting. We had a good crew there providing ongoing communications consisting of Cindy (KA9PZG), Skip (KA9DDN), Mark (AB9CD), Ed (AA9W), Tom Oehler (W9LNL), Stan (KB9RQR) and myself. Cindy shadowed the event organizer while the rest of us manned rest stops and monitored the tail ends of the walk. It was interesting and they fed us after providing us with a "volunteer" T-shirt. I would do it again – it was fun. Thanks to all that assisted on such short notice.

However, I must say that "Opportunity Days" at the Parkview Elementary School on May 4<sup>th</sup> was a blast. Bill Howe (KA9WRL) brought his "field QRP" station and code machines exhibit. Tom Murtaugh (W9VBQ) set up a portable 20-meter station on the lawn and I set up a 40-meter station powered by a solar panel. The highlight of the "show and tell" sessions was the OZARES Communications Van brought to the school and operated by Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) and Jack Morrison (N9SFG). We introduced about 60 ten year olds to amateur radio in 4 each 40 minute sessions. It really kept us moving. My thanks to Tom Oehler (W9LNL), Nels Harvey (WB9JOB) and Jon (KB9RHZ) who monitored the ".97" repeater to make sure the kids had someone to talk too. It was a rewarding experience, I am hoping we can introduce the "hamming" activity into the middle school next year.

The main event since the last meeting was of course, the annual ORC Swapfest at Circle B. A

great deal of effort was put into the event with distribution of about 900 flyers, e-mail announcements to about 250 locals and also via the ARRL section mail list of about 1400. We again this year had a long list of valuable door prizes, forums and a president's council.

I was pleased with the HF forum presented by Gary Sutluffe (W9XT) and the QRP forum presented by Gerry Scherkenbach (N9AW) and Richard McGaver (NK9G). They were well attended and really commanded the interest of their "niche" audiences. Thanks to Gary (W9XT) for handling the forums.

I was also quite pleased with the participation of clubs in the Presidents Round Table. There were ten clubs represented and even though we had to cut it off after 1 1/2 hours there were many good ideas presented and the group requested minutes of the meeting and to continue the event.

However, we had about 20% of the tables empty of vendors and only had 251 ticket stubs in the raffle bin. We only had one large commercial vendor (Tower) . While disappointed, he did indicate he would try it one more time. I have talked to several who were there as to their opinion and expectations of the swapfest however, perhaps I will learn the real reasons for low attendance if those who were not there give me some clues. I have not yet had an opportunity to analyze the survey results. Perhaps that will give us an idea as how we should envision the future May Swapfests.

It's time to prepare for the September 15<sup>th</sup> outdoor swapfest at Fireman's Park. The chairman is Gary Sharbuno and he is being assisted by Gabe Chido (WI9GC) and John Schrader (W9NRG) among others.

The atmosphere of swapfest's is changing, I think due to e-bay, competitive hobbies, price of gas and the nature and average age of radio amateurs. We need to continue to evaluate our approach to assure the future. I will have a more complete report on the May event in the June newsletter. We plan to have a review of the May swapfest results etc. at 7 PM prior to the Board Meeting at my house on June 6<sup>th</sup>. You are welcome to come and comment. The club can use all the input and advice it can get.

So what's coming up in May? Dayton! I am looking forward to again going to Dayton if only to stroll down the isles of stuff from yesterday and hear some good Bluegrass music from the Good Old Boys at the KY club flea market stall.

All in all, it has been a very busy month and now it's time to go cut the grass.

73's

## Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

It's time to start thinking seriously about Field Day. It's right around the corner and we should be looking for ways to increase the club score over the fine effort we made last year. The FD committee met at Prez Tom's house a couple of weeks ago to start the ball rolling. Among the decisions made were that all stations would use the same software, that is, N3FJP, and that all stations would be configured for a one person operation with the option of working as a 2 person team if desired. This was an important decision, and should lead to a significant increase in scores from the phone stations. (CW stations have been operating in that mode for about the last 10 or 12 years.) It was also decided to repeat the networking of the HF stations that we used last year. Networking ties the computers of all the participating stations together and develops a common log for all stations. It allows that log to be observed in the cook tent by anyone who wishes to keep up with the progress of the contest without actually visiting the individual stations. There is, however, a possible negative side to networking. Those hard heads over in the 40 CW tent insist that they must see their own log only, rather than the composite log that networking develops, and that the "rate" monitor must also be their own. Without these crutches to keep them alert they claim their rate will drop off and their score suffer. (It's sorta like the racehorse who will run faster if he has another horse running alongside him to keep him honest.) They want to be able to switch at will from network to local monitoring, but we don't know as yet if the program will allow that. To determine if it will WB9RQR will set up the network at his house one day soon so that we can experiment and make a decision. More on that later.

There are any number of ways for individuals to

help improve the club score. And let me say that Field Day is not the time to be introduced to a new contest software. I strongly suggest that everyone who plans to operate should download the free N3FJP demo software, install it on their computers, and simulate a bunch of QSO's in their mode of choice. The demo allows you to make 30 contacts before shutting down. Of course you can make more contacts than that simply by deleting the contacts when you get to #29, and starting over. That won't make you an expert but it will certainly make you more comfortable when you sit down to operate, and will help to keep the overall club rate high. You can get the software at [www.n3fjp.com](http://www.n3fjp.com). Preparation is important—the last thing I do before tearing down the station and loading it in the car is to operate the CW practice program for about 15 minutes. It helps.

Coming up May 26-27 CQ WW WPX  
Contest Rules in May QST, page 97.

Have fun contesting.

Bob, W9LO-

## Internet phone – an opinion -

De Nels Harvey, WA9JOB

I recently switched my main telephone line to Vonage. I kept the second line with AT&T, both as a backup to the Internet based line, and as my fax line.

I am astounded as to just how clean, noise free, loud and clear the Vonage connection is compared to the AT&T phone line! My wife can once again hear callers without an amplified phone! I now know why I was unable to get any reasonable Internet speeds on dialup connections, AT&T service SUCKS!

One concern is the 911 connectivity issue. Vonage has my address registered so in the event I do need 911 services, my location will show up properly to the 911 dispatchers. Another concern is Internet outages. In my case, I do maintain another line, still with AT&T, that may work in a power failure, or disaster.

Vonage requires a high speed Internet connection. Since I use RoadRunner anyhow, That had me covered. Vonage offers free long distance

to more places than I care to call, caller ID, call waiting, and even call forwarding, like to my cell phone if we're away from home. All these services from AT&T cost additional fees.

Yes, it does cost a little bit more, but I feel the Internet phone service is so much better than the AT&T lines, it is entirely worth it, in my opinion.

## MS Walk @ Cedarburg HS

We were asked by Abbey Heise, the MS Walk coordinator to assist with communications at the April 29<sup>th</sup> walk starting at the Cedarburg High School. We only had about 10 days notice but we had a reasonable ORC turnout to assist with the event. This type of event is good practice for operations that could be requested in times of emergency. It is at these events that we learn that we forgot how to program the HT and develop techniques of operation suitable to emergency events.



**While the “walkers” were signing up we were inside getting a “volunteer MS Walk” T-shirt and donuts.**

Believe me, it is always good to bring an extra HT and battery packs because it is when you go to use them you often first realize they are broken or discharged. It pays to plan and be prepared.



**They're off! It was quite a horde of walkers starting at 10 AM but they soon strung out along the walkways.**



**Not everyone walked. Some rode their Segway's. That was fun to watch – amazing.**



**When it was all over, Skip (KA9DDN ), Cindy (KA9PZG), Ed (AA9W) and Mark (AB9CD) had a Sub sandwich for lunch. Tom (W9LNL) had manned a school rest stop but had to leave before the late lunch.**

## **Parkview Opportunity Days**

Opportunity Days at the Parkview Elementary School is a day dedicated to exposing the older kids to the various hobbies and avocations available to them even as youth. These included baby setting, martial arts, tie dying, etc. and amateur radio.



**Stan was busy preparing the communications equipment and “tower cam” for operation by the kids.**



**Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) and Jack Morrison (N9SFG) were the main attraction with their OZARES Mobil Emergency Communications Van.**

Last year we were invited to do just two sessions in the morning however, this year, due to the number of kids requesting the amateur radio session they asked us to do four sessions. It really was quite an experience and quite rewarding.



**Tom Murtaugh (W9VBQ) was busy explaining the 20-meter station operation to two of the more interested students.**



**Bill Howe (WA9WRL) enjoyed demonstrating his field QRP station and teaching the kids to spell their name in Morse code.**



**Everybody gets to talk. If we can't find anybody on 40 meters we resorted to the "97" repeater.**

Thanks to Tom, Jon and Nels for being there when we needed someone to talk too.

## Digital Ham Group

This group is dedicated to the discussion & development of amateur / ham radio use of digital voice & data communication techniques utilizing D-STAR digital voice & data, APCO P25 digital voice, HF digital voice, packet radio(including APRS), HSMM(High Speed Multi Media) / Wi-Fi, digital satellite, digital SSTV and PSK / FSK.

Join the group to exchange ideas & information and learn about operating the digital modes. Dozens of Files & Links about all digital modes are available on the group. Hams from all areas are welcome.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/illinoisdigitalham/>

73, Mark, WB9QZB

## Upcoming Events

### May

- 4<sup>th</sup> **Opportunity Day @ Parkview School**
- 5<sup>th</sup> **ORC Swapfest at Circle B**
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting – Power Poles**
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Dayton Hamvention
- 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> CQ WW CW DX Contest

### June

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour de Cure
- 2<sup>nd</sup> QCWA Meeting – Ron Yokes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **River Cleanup**
- 6<sup>th</sup> **Board Meeting & Swapfest Review**
- 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> ARRL VHF QSO Party
- 10<sup>th</sup> 6 Meter Club of Chi Swapfest @ DuPage Fairgrounds in Wheaton IL
- 13<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> **Field Day**

### July

- 7<sup>th</sup> South Milwaukee Swapfest
- 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> IARU HF World Championship
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**
- 15<sup>th</sup> Fox River Radio League Swapfest @ Aurora IL
- 21<sup>st</sup> **Fish Day at Port Washington**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Airventure 2005 at Oshkosh
- 29<sup>th</sup> **Board Meeting**

### August

- 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> ARRL UHF Contest
- 5<sup>th</sup> Bolingbrook Swapfest @ Bolingbrook IL
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Circus City Swapfest – Baraboo WI
- 18<sup>th</sup> **ORC Cornroast**

## Club Static

Peter (KB9URH) Schmidt and his wife Ann are home recovering from a bad car accident they were in last month. They rolled their Ford Explorer over twice on an icy road up North, landed right side up and escaped with two major injuries: Ann broke her wrist, and Peter sustained a broken neck and needed immediate surgery at the Marshfield Hospital. Surgery went well, he's in a neck brace for several weeks minimum.

Mark Potash's father passed away April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Services were in Chicago. Our condolences to Mark and Naomi.

Jim Albrinck's mother in law, Mary Jewel McGuinness Malloy, passed away April 26<sup>th</sup> in Cincinnati. Our condolences to Jim and Sue.

## Streaming Video @ Dayton

Don't forget to join in on the fun of the 2007 Dayton Hamvention this year by live streaming video and audio and chat room. Many of you joined us last year. We will be broadcasting the 3 days of the Hamvention live at <http://wa5kub.com> may 18-20<sup>th</sup>.

We will also be broadcasting our 500-mile drive LIVE to Hamvention. Watch us drive and chat with us and others around the world. We depart on Wed May 16<sup>th</sup> at approx. 1300 GMT.

The web site is up and running right now (right now it has recorded video of Hamvention) and we will be switching to live soon.

Please help us load test the system by going to <http://wa5kub.com>

And watching and chatting with us and others. Also many of you watched the bird cam last year. This year we have a new live webcam of a bird's nest and eggs and they are expected to hatch soon. Watch the mother bird feed and care for the babies. That link is <http://tmedlin.com/birdcam.html>

Thanks and 73's  
Tom WA5KUB

# Barber Shopping

## De Nels Harvey (WA9JOB)

I have been going to Terry's shop on N. Teutonia Ave. for more than 30 years now. A couple of years ago, he had posted a sign stating that he would not be open on Wednesdays. That was easy to work around, but it is amazing just how many times I would decide to get a haircut, and remember it was Wednesday!

Terry had his prices posted on the wall, giving a discount to those who were on Social Security, and retired. I don't know, it was one, or two bucks off the going rate, which was about \$10.00. I never told him that I was doing some contract work, but I think he might have suspected so!

Last year, another day was added to his days off. The sign stated that he would be off both Wednesdays and Fridays! All the regulars wondered what the future would bring. Of course the inevitable occurred! My last visit to the barbershop was punctuated by a sign "This Barbershop Will Close Permanently on March 31, 2007!" Yes, the other shoe had fallen!

To a lot of guys, the barber is very personal. There aren't a lot of unrelated people that get so up close, that don't say "Turn your head and cough!" A good barber remembers how you like to be trimmed. He remembers your job, family, and friends. It takes a long time to build this rapport, and to have it wrested away just because he wants to retire, just doesn't seem fair!

My last barber did that too, after even more than thirty years! Jim Powell, Barber, located down on Fond Du Lac Ave. in Milwaukee, was the guy that gave me my first haircut! I missed him too, but that really is another story.

Now, I need to look for another place to go and get my hair cut. No, I won't go to one of those fancy hair salons, I'll leave that for the ladies. I'm looking for a man's barbershop. One where I can brag about myself, my kids, grandkids, and even great grandkids! I want a barber that won't raise my sideburns. Oh, I'm cheap too! No, I don't think I'll want to pay \$40.00 for a fancy cut. Forget appointments and lady barbers as well.

I've been asking around, and have located some possible barbers in my area. It will be strange to not go to Terry's. I guess I will need to be able to tell the new barber just how I want my hair cut. The trouble is, I haven't done that since the bald spot took over up there! He will need to understand that I still imagine a full head of hair there, even when I look into the mirror in the morning. I have so much trouble combing in that pompadour as it is, you know.

One thing that I can get solace about is, the difference between a good haircut and a bad haircut is probably only a few days!

The



Column

By Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), Column Editor

**THE MCT'S** driver's side floorboard has been repaired, thanks to Jack (N9SFG) and the county's Highway Department. The Highway Department welded in new steel plate, then primed and painted it. The emergency brake needs some touch-up, but otherwise it is ready for service. Jack and Stan plan to show it off at Parkview Elementary School on 4 May. We are also tentatively planning to have it at Field Day, perhaps on Sunday, when we usually have lots of visits from the public.

Oh yes, Ray (N9PBY) and Stan finished up work on the MCT camera during another work party. With the mast up at just under 50 feet, one can pan, tilt, zoom and focus, while watching on one of the monitors in the Operator's area of the vehicle. A really neat thing that Ray showed Stan is this: point the camera at some distant antenna, such as the tower at the Justice Center. Zoom and focus let you do that very accurately. Then, without rotating the camera, dip it to point down and zoom in on the 440 MHz beam up there next to the camera. Then, using the beam's controls, rotate it until it is also pointing at the distant antenna, which you can do because you can see the beam. Viola! You are ready for point-to-point communications with penultimate alignment of the signal path!

Skip (KA9DDN), with technical help from Mike (KC9GDV), gave a terrific program on **Anderson Powerpoles** at the April meeting. Skip showed what they are, how they work, and

how to assemble them, all in great detail so that all understood. They even used a camera to project assembly methods on the screen, so everyone could see well. Then, the guys hosted a hands-on assembly session for those who wanted to prepare cables for their own use. It was really excellent and thoroughly instructive. When I headed Wisconsin's ARES/RACES (99-05), I set these as the standard for emergency communications throughout the state, and have been using these connectors personally for a number of years. Nevertheless, I learned quite a lot from Skip's presentation. Non-OZARES members will have a chance to see Skip's presentation at the next ORC meeting, too. Everyone should be using these power connectors.

**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. Guests are welcome after the OZARES check-ins are complete, especially ORC members!

10 May N9PBY  
 17 May KA9PZG  
 24 May Meeting  
 31 May KB9RHZ (W9IPR sub'ing)

07 Jun KB9RLI  
 14 Jun WB9RQR  
 21 Jun W19GC  
 28 Jun FIELD DAY (Yeaaaah!)

05 Jul AA9GT  
 12 Jul N9SQA  
 19 Jul KB9UKE  
 26 Jul Meeting

## Minutes of April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007

De. Bill Howe, KA9WRL

**Meeting Opened** at 19:35

**Introductions** – Refer to attendance

**Announcements** –

1. Tom mentioned Swain's Island N8S expedition and website. Gary (W9XT) & Ray (K9KHN) worked N8S also.

2. Leon (K9GCF) worked Bonaire Dxpedition (W9NJY, Andy)
3. Nels announced he would accept "jacket checks" and send to Ed (AA9WW)
  - A. . Madison Swapfest at Stoughton April 21<sup>st</sup>
  - B. MS Walk
  - C. Board Meeting May 2
  - D. Opportunity Day at Parkview May 4<sup>th</sup>
  - E. ORC Swapfest @ Circle B May 5th
  - F. Dayton – May 18 – 20

### Show & Tell –

John (W9NRG) showed his \$20 GPS receiver kit – it work's.

**Auction** – Kent (N9WH) auctioned the cigar box's.

Terry (KA9RFM) moved to approve the minutes as published, Marc (N9ZF) seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nels presented a written report. Leon (K9GCF) made motion to accept the report. Bob (N9NRK) seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Repeater Report:** John (W9NRG) reported all is well with the repeaters. There have been no changes.

### Committee Reports:

**Superfest Report:** Bill (KA9WRL) reported that there was a total attendance of over 1700. Leon took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the FoxHunt. Bill's (KA9WRL) display of "keys" and oscillators etc. for code was well received at the JOTA table. . Bill will bring in some of his WWII code training equipment for a meeting program. About 100 FCC exams were given at Superfest. About 2/3 were upgrades. Tom talked with Gordon west about his 2-day training program – seems there is much-programmed self-study prior to the 2-day session. ORC members manned the JOTA, LAFROG, ORC and OZARES tables – we were well represented.

**ORC Swapfest** – May 5<sup>th</sup> – Tom (W9IPR) is Chairman this year and Tom Nawrot (AA9XK) will chair next year. Door prizes have been received from ICOM, Buckmaster-HamCall, CQ Magazine, W5YI and Unified Micro (Gary, W9XT) and a few more are expected. An e-mail list is

being compiled to send notice to area HAM's. Last of flyers to be distributed at Madison swapfest in Stoughton on 21 April. Chuck (WA9POU) passed around a Swapfest work sign-up sheet.

**Field Day** – 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend in June (23 & 24 June) Leon (K9GCF) looking for a “points captain). Needs help in all area and looking for volunteers. Mark Potash (K9GST) designed and manufactured two models of portable tilt over mount for masts and verticals. Leon displayed them to membership as we plan to sell them at the ORC and Dayton Swapfests. Suggested prices were \$49 and \$69.

**Old Business:**

Contester of the Year 2006 was presented to Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT) by President Tom (W9IPR)

Kent (N9WH) made the motion to pull the amended budget motion from the table. Jon Gilmore seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The motion to pass the budget as published, and amended to increase the “repeater upgrade” allocation from \$250 to \$500 passed on a voice vote.

President Tom (W9IPR) brought up the need for a repeater planning committee to address the operational needs and potential cost of future repeater coverage.

**New Business:** None

50/50 drawing – Nels (W9JOB) won.

**Adjourned:** 21:00 O'clock

**Attendance:** Jon (KB9RHZ), Kent (N9WH), Nels (WA9JOB), Chuck (WA9POU), Leon (K9GCF), Bob (N9NRK), Ray (W9KHH), Bill (KA9WRL), Terry (KA9RFM), Mark N9ZF), Gary (W9XT), John (W9NRG), Tom (W9IPR) and Paul (KC9JJU).

## **AGENDA**

*May 9th, 2007*

1. Call to order – Tom (W9IPR)
2. Introductions.
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
4. Program: PowerPole Connectors by Skip Douglas (KA9DDN)
5. Fellowship Break
6. Auction.
7. Acceptance of Minutes as printed.
8. Treasurer's report – Nels (WA9JOB)
9. Repeater report – John (W9NRG)
10. Committee reports.  
Membership –

Public Relations –

Youth Program – Bill Howe & Mike Yuhas

Swapfest – Tom Ruhlmann & Nels Harvey

Field Day – Leon Rediske & Ken Boston

Uniforms – Ed Frac

Repeater Committee Appointment:

John – W9NRG

Nels – WB9JOB

Jim Albrinck – K9QPL

Gary Bargholz – N9UUR

Dave Barrow – N9UNR

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, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**