



The *ORC* Newsletter

Official publication of the Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc. Email all contributions to the editor, Bill Shadid, W9MXQ (newsletter@ozaukeeradioclub.org). Permission to reprint articles published in any issue is granted provided the Author (as shown in the article) and the Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter are fully credited in any publication.



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Number 2

From the President

de: Bill Greaves, K9GN



The ORC STEM Committee, chaired by Pat W9JI Volkmann, held a productive meeting with the West Bend Community Memorial Library (WBCML) exploring the programs focusing on activities for middle and high school students. A proposal to support the library's efforts in science, technology, engineering, and math with an emphasis on amateur radio is being finalized now. The proposal has three parts: library books with an emphasis on ARRL publications, hands on kits that also may be checked out, and a hands on radio demonstration this summer. While the first two can be purchased by the ORC for the library, the third will require ORC membership participation. The WBCML summer program provides an opportunity for students to participate in an event outdoors in the park next to the library. This is also an opportunity for the ORC membership to present several aspects of active ham radio stations to

the students, such as a portable station, HF and VHF, battery support, laptop to play FT8, maybe a drone to fly up some wire, etc. This is an exciting development to provide focus for ORC STEM efforts; however, this will require involvement by the membership. More info will be coming at the February club meeting.

Here are some items for your 2024 calendar. The Spring ORC Swapfest is Saturday, April 27th; this will be indoors at the Ascension St. Mary's Center, W67N890 Washington Avenue in Cedarburg. More info is on the ORC website at ozaukeeradioclub.org. The outdoor Fall ORC Swapfest is scheduled for Saturday, September 7th at Firemen's Park, also on Washington Avenue in Cedarburg. And, while you're populating your calendar, the Ham Radio Outlet Superfest is Friday and Saturday, September 20-21 at HRO, 60th and Good Hope Road.

The Club membership will gather on Wednesday, February 14th both in-person and on zoom at 7:30pm, with meet-and-greet at 7:00pm, at the Grafton Senior Center or on zoom. The program for the meeting will be, "Amateur Radio-Related Philately (Stamp Collecting)" by Jeananne N9VSV Bargholz. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

73,

Bill K9GN



REMEMBER!!!

2024 is a Leap Year

A Message from the Editor

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de: Bill Shadid, W9MXQ, Newsletter Editor

Please note Club President, Bill Greaves, K9GN, on Page 1 for his monthly message. I want to add that it is nice to have Bill back to top billing this month!!

Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, is back with us this month, presenting us with a continuation of his Projects, Tools, and Tips article series. This month, Tom talks about Swapmeets, Auctions, and Treasures. What do you do that the stuff you find or have?

Look at a Guest Editorial by Wisconsin Section Youth Coordinator, Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN. We talk a lot about youth in the hobby – let's look at an action plan.

Don Zank, AA9WP, in his Ozaukee County ARES column this month talks about ARES and AUXCOM Position Task Books. Think training! Want to know more about ARES? Contact Don at: AA9WP@ARRL.net

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, shares some history on Linux Mint in his 311th Computer Corner article. Take a look this month at how to at how to Upgrade Linux!

Swing into late winter with Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, with his On the Air Activities column showing us the schedule of many upcoming operating events as we finish out the winter activity months. Don't forget Gary's convenient "Pull-Out" Page of activity specifics.

Your Editor, Bill Shadid, W9MXQ, has his regular Vintage Amateur Radio column but this month presents some thoughts on going forward. Here is your chance to name some future articles about your favorite Vintage Amateur Radios.

Tom Trethewey advises us of regional Upcoming Events..

Check the minutes of the January Ozaukee Radio Club meeting as provided by our Secretary, Ken Boston, W9GA.

Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV, our Program Committee Chair, with information on this month's program and what's ahead.

Need help to get your thoughts on paper for an article? That is what the Editor does!! Let me know how I can help you. newsletter@ozaukeeradioclub.org

What's inside???

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SWAPMEETS, AUCTIONS AND TREASURES

de: Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR

Yes, I do have a lot of test equipment and some I haven't even used yet. Some is passive and some is active and vacuum tube or solid state. There on the top shelf is a Heathkit signal tracer which is a nice companion to the Heathkit capacitor tester on a lower shelf. Next to the signal tracer is an HP model 721A variable voltage/current DC power supply



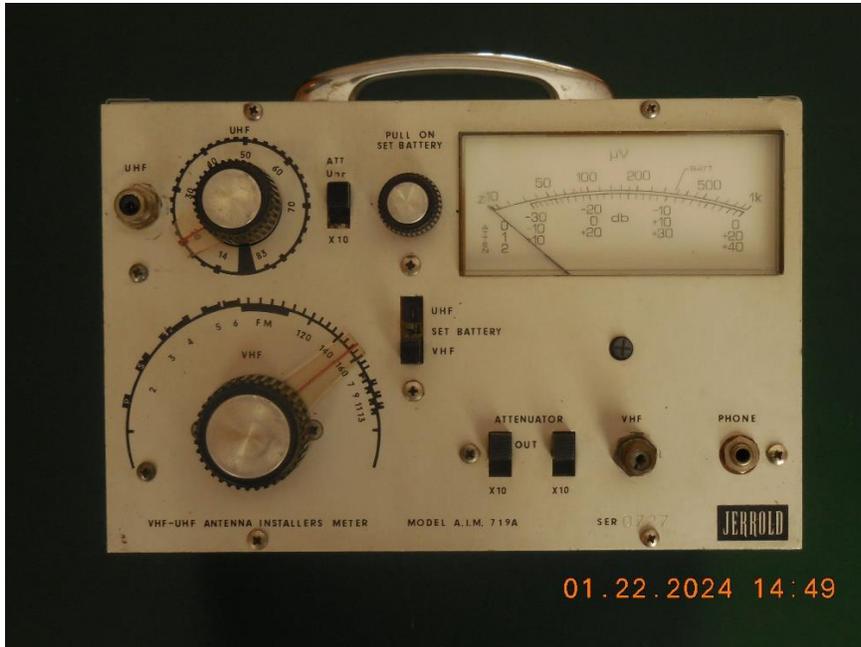
I use to charge various batteries etc. And next to that is my latest treasure, a Jerrold 719A Antenna Installers Meter I bought at the ORC meeting auction for 50 cents. Did it work? I didn't know but it didn't rattle and for 50 cents it had a nice meter and knobs etc. This was the type of field strength meter that my boss, Frank Terry, used in the 1950's while on the ground while I as a kid walked around on the customers roof aiming a TV Antenna.

I noted the meter had VHF and UHF as well as broadcast FM (including audio) monitoring capability and the frequency dial was calibrated with analog TV channel number (1 thru 13 and 120 thru 160 MHz in the VHF range and channels 14 thru 83 for UHF). At the time I reasoned this should be fine for 6 meters through above 2 meters on VHF and some UHF as well if it worked. I got it home and while it didn't look like new and the batteries were low, it did seem to



work and with a set of rabbit ears for an antenna it did respond to my 2- meter HT.

Taking a look inside I noted there was nothing broken or charred. Therefore it should be worth cleaning up and installing four new 9- volt batteries.



I painted the case; cleaned the front panel; installed a salvaged chrome drawer handle on top and placed 4 felt pads on the bottom of the case. It now looked good so it's time to finish the check-out. I set up in the kitchen because the lighting was better to take a picture. So, I turned ON the overhead LED flood lights and the field strength meter indicated a 400 micro volt signal from 120 thru 160 MHz.. The LED flood lights also caused an S9

signal on the HT. The meter indicated a signal in other rooms of the house and even in the basement. Lights OFF and the noise signal was gone. The meter works. Guess I also need different LED lights. I checked VHF also using my 2- meter HT and it showed a good signal at about the 145 MH setting on the dial. Also, the UHF section works fine since it responds to my 440 MHz HT at the lowest end of the UHF dial.

So, to recalibrate the dials you can "google" the analog TV channel frequencies and even get a table. In summary:

- VHF Channel 1 thru 6: 44 thru 88 MHz (that includes 6 meters and the area between 6 & 7 includes the air band and it responds to my aviation HT at 118 MHz also.)
- VHF Channel 7 thru 13: 174 thru 216 MHz. (untested but should respond to the maritime mobile signals at the lower end of the dial and the 220 MHz. amateur radio band signals at upper end of dial)
- UHF Channel 14 thru 83: 470 thru 890 MHz. (it responds to 442 MHz at the low end of the dial.)

So, there you have it; a good field strength meter for VHF and UHF covering the related HAM, FM broadcast, aviation, and maritime bands. It can be used for checking related equipment carrier RF transmission field strength and aiming of beam antennas at higher power VHF and UHF transmitting antennas in the immediate area. Not bad for 50 cents and a few batteries. Now I need a conversion connector to accept a PL-259 plug from the outside antennas.

Section Youth Coordinator Report

de: Etienne Robitaille, K9ZN, Section Youth Coordinator
Wisconsin ARRL Section

(Editor Note: This article comes to us as a reprint from the ARRL Wisconsin Section January 2024 Newsletter. It is shown here with the permission of Jason Spetz, KC9FXE, ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager. Thank you Etienne and Jason!! A special thanks to ORC fellow member, Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY, for suggesting it be included in this Newsletter edition)

ARRL Assisting Ham Radio Youth Financially

The ARRL Board of Directors, on the 21st, approved two motions aimed at engaging young hams with a strong start to their lifelong journey with amateur radio and ARRL:

FREE ARRL Membership for Students. For decades, ARRL has offered a reduced dues rate for young hams, currently priced at \$30 per year. At this meeting, the Board established a new option for a no-cost Associate membership for full-time students of age 21 and younger.

As well as this, the Board of Directors have created the ARRL Student Coding Competition. The Board approved the creation of a coding competition that will challenge students 21 and younger to design a software application that meets the specifications established by ARRL. Awards of up to a total of \$25,000 will be granted by an awards committee to the winning student(s). The terms and schedule for the competition will be determined by the committee.

The ARRL Foundation, responsible for the distribution of scholarships, awarded 113 scholarships totaling over \$600,000, through the generosity of individuals and clubs. Norris also recognized the generous commitment made by Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) which will fund over \$2.1 million, over three years, to support scholarships, radio technology for classroom teachers, and amateur radio club grants.

Winter Field Day

Winter Field Day is coming up shortly. The contest starts on January 27th and goes until January 28th. This event is a more relaxed variation on the official ARRL Field Day. There are also bonus multipliers for satellite, mobile, power multipliers (QRP), and band multipliers to introduce them to even some of the less well-known aspects of Amateur Radio. If you want more details, visit their website at <https://www.winterfieldday.com> for details such as the rules, bonus points, scheduling, and more.

(Editor Note: This article originally appeared before Winter Field Day.)

Why contests are the most useful for getting youth into Amateur Radio - Not Satellite

One of the most difficult aspects of attracting kids to radio is determining which kind of radio mode is most effective to bring in young people and new operators. I discovered that an astonishingly big number of ARRL staff promote ISS connections (satellite radio) for youth. At least for myself, I believe this was a huge, squandered opportunity. While the satellite has the "wow" factor of being able to communicate with space, it lacks a set of key features that make implementation extremely challenging.

Less opportunity for ISS contacts compared to contests

If you've had experience with satellite radio, you'll understand how difficult it is to make contact with an overhead pass. It can occasionally be a typical time of day. Most of the time, however, it occurs at an unusual hour of the night, far after school. Contests have the advantage of running over a lengthy period of time, often 24 or 48 hours. This enables all students at a school to compete in a contest, even if it is part of the school curriculum which would have hundreds of kids in a singular school day. This is utterly impossible for any ISS contact; you'd need someone with some expertise in making contacts, and even then, ISS contacts are difficult to grasp and appear chaotic to an inexperienced ear.

Unpredictability and experience required to make ISS contacts

ISS contacts are quite hectic. Very commonly, at least three people are simultaneously attempting to reach the station. This reduces the likelihood of making a contact, which would be highly disappointing for children looking on and hoping for a contact. It also prevents any kid from making contacts with the space station because the learning curve for making quick contacts like that is too high. In a contest, however, it is considerably easier for a child to make contact. Once the equipment is set up and ready to use, a contest exchange may be easily written on paper and logged on a computer by a teacher. The rate of contacts made in a contest can also be substantially slower compared to ISS contacts, which also makes it easier for youth to make contacts.

Contests are more structured

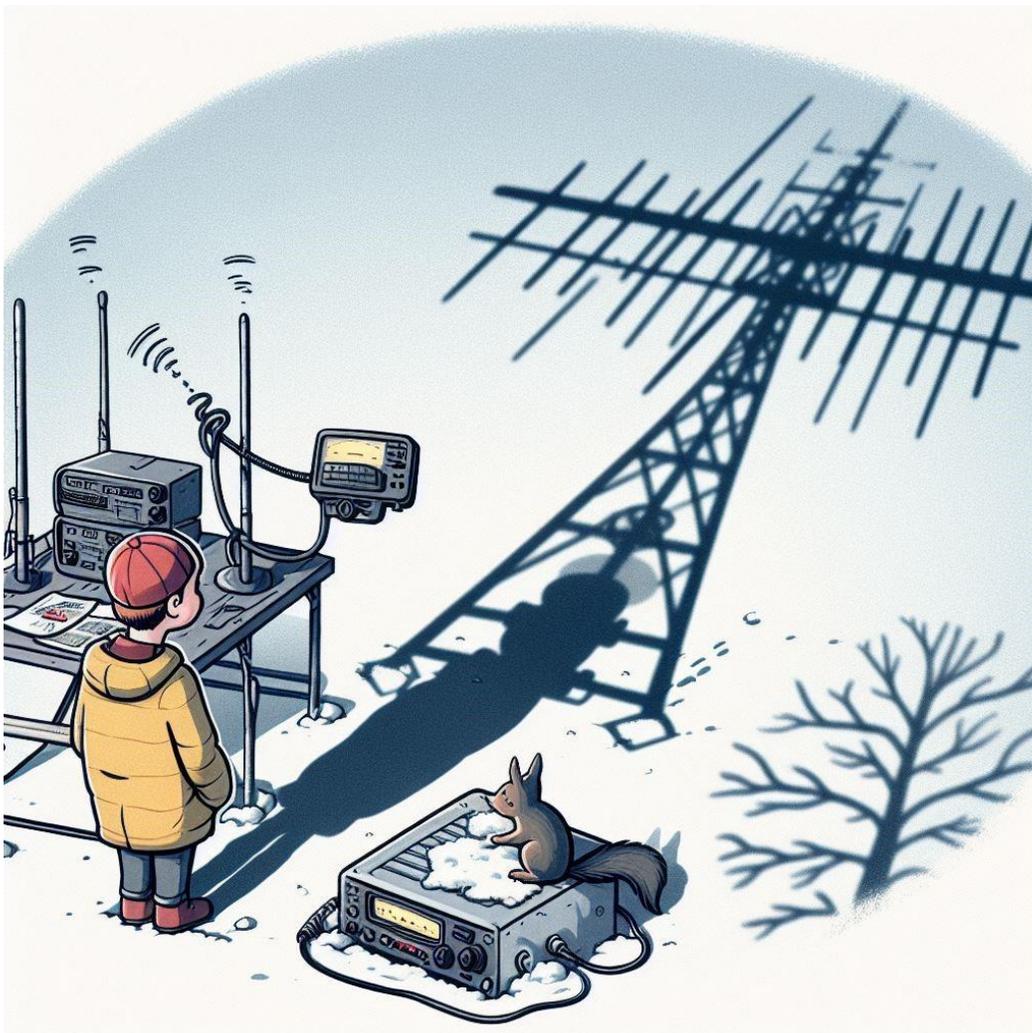
Contests are extremely structurally easy to understand; defined start times and end times, logging information, and exchanges. The clear framework provides an easy way for schools to plan ahead with scheduling times for kids to get on the air, bringing in the correct volunteers, and other necessary things with an event of this nature months ahead of time. However, the unpredictability of ISS passes makes it very challenging to plan ahead of time, which is a significant disadvantage for schools.

In closing, while ISS connections via satellite radio offer an intriguing "wow" factor with the allure of communicating with space, they present significant challenges for engaging young people and new operators. The limited opportunity for ISS contacts compared to contests, the unpredictability and expertise required for successful ISS connections, and the lack of structure in planning make contests a more effective and accessible option for involving kids in radio activities compared to watching someone else partake in the hobby. Contests provide a structured and manageable environment, allowing for broader

participation, especially within school curriculums. As we seek to inspire and educate the next generation of radio enthusiasts, focusing on contests appears to be a more fruitful avenue, offering a practical and engaging experience for young operators.

Contact Me:

Please email me at et.k9zn@icloud.com if you have any questions or issues about my Section Youth Coordinator work. Response times can range from an hour to a day.



Jackson looks hopefully at his tower's shadow on Ground Hog Day, hoping for an early spring so he can fix the broken rotator. [AI Generated]

OZARES: Ozaukee Amateur Radio Emergency Services

by Don Zank AA9WP, OZARES Emergency Coordinator, aa9wp@arrl.net

ARES and AUXCOMM Position Task Books



Last month's article reviewed the ARRL ARES® program and the Department of Homeland Security AUXCOMM program. One similarity between the programs is the use of a Position Task Book or PTB. A Position Task Book will provide a list of tasks, event participation, and training elements that may be required, optional, or encouraged. A person in a leadership role then can sign off on the completion of the task, event participation, or training. The PTB helps the individual in deciding what next steps, if any, should be completed and it provides assistance to leadership as to the capability and skill level of the individual. The two PTBs will be compared in this month's article.

The ARES Standardized Training Plan provides the ARES Emergency Communicator Individual Task Book. The Task Book allows ARES participants to track and document their completion of tasks and training. There are three skill levels associated with the training plan:

- Level 1: Entry level into ARES. The skills learned to obtain an Amateur Radio License are included.
- Level 2: Set of skills desired by ARES obtained through coursework and training.
- Level 3: Increased skill set that initiates a pathway to leadership positions and assignments.

Each level has three task requirements those are Education, Participation, and Proficiency/Skill. Each task has a list of activities, and the activities may be Required, Optional, or Encouraged. The Required activities have a sign-off from an EC or DEC.

Level 1 presents an informative introductory path to learn about ARES and emergency communications. The Educational tasks are optional at this level. There are two NIMS classes: IS-100 – Introduction to Incident Command System and IS-700 – Introduction to the National Incident Management System. The Education task also includes Skywarn or sky-spotter training and completion of the ARRL class EC-001 Introduction to Emergency Communications.

The Participation Tasks are required and include starting the task book and joining an ARES group.

The Proficiency Task, also required, is simply to obtain a Technician class or higher amateur radio license.

For Level 2, the previous optional NIMS classes become required. In addition, two more NIMS classes are required: IS-200: ICS for Single Resource and IS-800: National Response Framework. The ARRL EC-001 class is now required but the Skywarn/storm spotter training remains optional.

The Participation requirements include required net participation, at least once per calendar quarter. Optional participation activities are working at a public service event, being a net control operator, and participating in an exercise or the Simulated Emergency Test (SET).

The Proficiency/Skill activities become more radio-oriented. The required activities are demonstrating how to program a tone into an HT, program the frequencies and offsets into a radio, and write and send an ICS-213 message. The Optional activities are operating a digital VHF station or HF station. The Encouraged activities are showing how to build a simple dipole antenna, a Powerpole® adapter cable, and how to solder a PL259 to coax and assemble a go-kit for a 24-hour deployment.

At Level 3 most of the activities are now required. The Education Task becomes much more intensive with nine additional required NIMS classes. The classes are IS-120: An Introduction to Exercises; IS-230: Fundamentals of Emergency Management; IS-235: Emergency Planning; IS-240: Leadership and Influence; IS-241: Decision Making and Problem-Solving; IS-242: Effective Communications; IS-244: Developing and Managing Volunteers; IS-288: Role of Voluntary Organizations in Emergency Management; IS-2200: Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions. The ARRL EC-016, Public Service and Emergency Communications Management (This had been an online course. It appears not to be available on the ARRL website). Optional courses include PR-101 Public Information Officer Training and Skywarn/Storm Spotter training. The NIMS Courses, ICS-300: Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents and ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command are also optional.

The Participation Level remains the same as Level 2.

The Leadership task requires presenting either a training session or holding a leadership position in a group. Optionally, other activities are holding a General Class or higher license and completion of EC-001.

The Position Task Book for the Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC), the individual providing auxiliary communications, uses Competencies, Behaviors, and Tasks for evaluation. A Competency is defined as "An observable, measurable pattern of knowledge, skills, abilities, and other characteristics that an individual should possess to perform an activity and associated tasks." A Behavior is "An observable work activity or a group of similar

tasks necessary to perform an activity. A Task is "A specific, demonstrable action necessary for successful performance in a position."

A brief review of the Competencies, Behaviors and Tasks are listed below:

1. Competency: Prerequisites required to initiate the Position Task Book
Behavior: Complete the following prerequisite training
Task: Complete IS-100; IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800
2. Competency: Readiness, Preparedness, Situational Awareness
 - 2a: Behavior: Maintain a personal and position-specific "Go-Kit"
Task: Easily transportable go-kit
Task: ICS forms
Task: Procedures, manuals, and knowledge of the Chain of Command
Task; Supplies, including first aid kit, personal protective equipment
 - 2b: Behavior: Obtain appropriate information regarding the deployment
Task: Obtain information from agency or incident command staff
3. Competency: Communicate Effectively
Behavior: Maintain positive, professional relationships that enhance operations
Task: Maintain positive interpersonal and interagency working relationships
4. Competency: Technical Skills
 - 4a: Behavior: Develop and implement plans
Task: Voice contact on at least 2 HF frequencies
Task: Send ICS-213 using WINLINK
 - 4b: Behavior: Assure safe operations and practices
Task: Knowledge of and able to explain safety and welfare requirements
5. Competency: Establish an Incident Auxiliary Communications Center
 - 5a: Behavior: Execute assigned tasks, assess progress, and make necessary adjustments
 - 5b: Behavior: Identify and assign staff to support operations
 - 5c: Behavior: Maintain appropriate documentation relating to operations of the Incident Auxiliary Command Center
6. Competency: Drafting plans, systems management, and documentation
 - 6a: Behavior: Execute assigned tasks, assess progress, and make necessary adjustments
 - 6b: Behavior: Serve as subject matter expert for AUXC-related issues
 - 6c: Behavior: Coordinate incident communications needs with existing system managers
7. Competency: Demobilization
 - 7a: Behavior: Follow the established process for demobilizationThe AUXC PTB Competency: Technical Skills has more of a focus on amateur radio

activities. Some of the skills that are required to be demonstrated include completing two HF contacts, sending an ICS-213 message via WINLINK, and demonstrating message passing using digital modes on VHF or HF.

Other skills that will be evaluated are the ability to assemble, install, and operate an HF dipole, a 2-meter antenna, and how to use an antenna analyzer. The evaluator may also ask for an explanation of the standing wave ratio and its impact on transmitting capabilities.

The Position Task book provides an easy way to monitor progress in each program. This concept could be expanded to help amateur radio operators upgrade their license level. A License Level Task book would list required knowledge and skills for the present license. Then the License Level Task book could provide the required knowledge and skills to upgrade to the next level. Just a thought!



**Vintage Radio Fans finally find a technology
that fits their needs!!**



OZARES Repeaters:

- **147.330 MHz (+ Shift) (127.3 PL)**
- **443.525 MHz (+ Shift) (114.8 PL)**

ORC Repeaters are On the Air Awaiting Your Call:

- **146.97 MHz (- Shift) (127.3 PL)**
- **224.18 MHz (- Shift) (127.3 PL)**
- **443.75 MHz (+ Shift) (127.3 PL)**

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 311: Upgrading Linux

de: Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, 715 N. Dries Street, Saukville, WI 53080-1664
wb9rqr@gmail.com



On 12Jan2024, Linux Mint Cinnamon 21.3 was released. One can download the .iso file (just under 3 TB in size) and use it to burn a bootable DVD disk to install a new version of the OS. Or, if you already have 21.1 (“VERA”) or 21.2 (“VICTORIA”), you can simply upgrade your copy to the new 21.3 (“VIRGINIA”). Upgrading takes less time and fewer resources and should go well if you follow the directions in this article. If anything goes wrong, you can always prepare and use a bootable DVD to install a fresh copy over the aborted attempt. Nothing lost, provided you back up your personal files first.

1. So, as always, back up your personal creations. Letters, pictures and so on. The safest way is to copy them to DVDs and store them on the shelf. Another ploy is to use Timeshift, a very good backup program present on 21.1 and subsequent versions to make a snapshot copy of your files currently on the disk. You should employ that program anyway, even if all goes well, to make backup copies of your stuff in the future. The backups are all automated, so you don’t even have to think about them once you set them up to your liking!
2. Next, use your current Update Manager to be absolutely sure that all files are up to date. That is the little shield icon in the tray that says, “Your system is up to date.” when you roll the pointer over it or tells you that updates are available. Make sure that all updates, especially including the latest Backup Manager itself, have been installed. Then, reboot your machine to make sure all is well and installed.
3. Next, launch the Update Manager by clicking that shield icon in the tray. Click the **Edit** option among the **File Edit View Help** list at the top of the screen and select “**Upgrade to LM 21.3 Virginia.**” This will start the ball rolling. The next couple of screens are informational, so select (click) the Next button in each case. On the Requirements screen click the “**I understand the risk.**” box to continue. Then, the Update Manager will want your password. Enter it and click **authenticate** to continue.
4. Now be patient, and don’t become a patient! Packages of files will be downloaded and installed. It may take a while; maybe even up to an hour or more, depending on your machine’s speed, memory installed and so on. Keep an eye on things, but don’t interfere. The Update Manager will notify you when the upgrade has succeeded, and it will ask you to reboot to complete the process. That is all there is to it! Happy Computing!

On The Air Activities!

de: Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT



Did the groundhog see its shadow? Will we have six more weeks of winter? The Milwaukee Zoo didn't have a groundhog, so they used penguins.

Whether we have an early spring or not, we had a couple of weeks of nasty winter weather in January. The high snow levels caused problems with my antennas, bringing down my 80 meter dipole and messing with my low band receive antennas. My main Tribander suddenly jumped to a 10:1 SWR, something I still need to track down.

At least we got a warm spell, and much of the snow melted. I'm most happy that my 250' driveway is now clear of snow. The delivery guys left stuff by the roadside despite clear tracks showing that our cars were getting in and out.

We had some good conditions during the January contests. Gary, **K9DJT**, was active in the ARRL VHF contest. This year's running had better than average 6 meter openings for January. We were able to work a lot of western states. I even picked up a new FFMA grid, DM02, on 6 meters. This is a tough one because of the distance and because the grid is mostly ocean, with a small island with a military base. Access is restricted, so having someone on the air while the band is open does not happen frequently.

Not long after that, I worked FK8HA in New Caledonia in the Pacific. That is a long haul and a new DXCC country on 6M. The opening was very isolated. It was open for about 15 minutes and seems restricted to southeastern Wisconsin. There was a lot of activity because of a contest. Indeed, many stations would be calling if they heard the station. Six meters can be like that with an opening only to a small area. It is unusual to be in the spotlight.

The CQ 160 CW contest was in January. Vic, **WT9Q**, put in a serious effort with over 600 contacts in the low power assisted class. Based on scores submitted to the 3830Scores site, Vic might make the top 10 US and is probably #1 in Wisconsin. Nice job Vic!

I didn't want to dedicate the weekend to the contest, so I just played around. I missed most of the prime hours on Friday and Saturday nights. I got on at about 11:45 PM Saturday, and we had the best 160M conditions to Europe during a contest I can remember. I worked about 25 stations in 16 countries. Generally, I consider contacting a few stations in Europe a success. More times than not, I get none.

This was done with 200W on CW, and a wire inverted L antenna. The cherry on top was I picked up HB0DX in Liechtenstein for a new 160M country.

The big DXpedition of January was Clipperton Island, TX5N, southwest of Mexico. This was a relatively rare one, and despite having many stations on simultaneously, the pile ups were large throughout the operation. I was fortunate to get Clipperton on 160 meters after about 2 hours of trying. ORC members **AC9JV**, **K9DJT**, **N9UUR**, **W9IPR**, **W9KEY**, **W9MXQ**, **WT9Q**, and probably others made the grade with QSOs. Sorry if I missed you. Let me know if you work something good, and I will mention it in future columns.

Clipperton was on 6M and would be a rare catch. We had an opening one night that many southeastern Wisconsin stations used to make contacts. Unfortunately, that was the night of the Greater Milwaukee DX Association meeting. Gary, **K9DJT**, and I were at the meeting. Ken, **W9GA**, would typically be at that meeting but was under the weather, so he stayed home. Unfortunately, he slept through the opening. Luck is a large factor sometimes. They were on 6M EME as well. Conditions were not good to North America, and Dave, KJ9I, was the only station I know from around here that made it that mode. I know Dave was the only US station successful that night.

WIQP

The Wisconsin QSO Party comes up on Sunday, March 10. This is the one contest it pays to be in Wisconsin because everyone is looking for us. It is fun to be hunted.

The ORC won the club competition a few years ago, but club interest seems to have declined. Let me know if you are willing to commit to putting some time in for an ORC WIQP. I have a conflict that Sunday. I have not been able to make one of those meetings since October, so I am overdue. I don't want to skip the meeting if we don't have a serious WIQP club effort lined up. Club competition is up since our last win and will require many ORC members to participate to compete.

2024 State QSO Party Challenge

State QSO parties range from pretty small affairs to monsters like the California QSO Party. The State QSO Party Challenge is designed to encourage activity in the QSO parties. It was successful last year and will run again this year through November 30.

You gain points based on the number of QSOs you make in the approved QSO parties, multiplied by the number of QSO parties for which you submit scores. They have different award levels based on your total points. Note that you have to submit your scores to the 3830Scores.com website for them to count for the Challenge. You also need to submit them to the QSO party sponsor if you want to win any awards they have.

This sounds like a fun program if you are looking for a regular, mostly low key operating activity. The state QSO Party season has barely begun, and only the Minnesota and Vermont QSO parties already completed.

Check out their web page. It has the rules, a list of the QSO parties, and dates.
<https://stateqsoparty.com>

DX

Although no blockbusters are scheduled this month, enough good operations are planned to be interesting.

A group of European operators led by YT1AD will be making a tour of the Pacific, starting in Fiji (3D2), then heading to Samoa (5W), followed by Tonga (A35), and a return trip to Fiji. The group of four operators will each have their own separate call signs. See the DX chart for dates.

Probably the biggest operation this month is to Juan Fernandez, also known as Robinson Crusoe Island. They will be there February 10-24 using the call sign CB0ZA. It is pretty rare, #58 on the ClubLog most wanted list. The last operation was in 2020, but it looked somewhat limited.

They plan to operate 160-6M. Six meter operation includes EME, something that is getting more popular.

There will be seven operators on the air from Juan Fernandez. They will bring RIBs, Rig In a Box, with them, allowing up to 30 remote operators. They will set them up first so that they can start making QSOs quickly while setting up the main stations, which they expect to take two days.

I have mixed opinions on RIBs and remote operators from around the world. In the case of things like the CB0ZQ operation, it allows them to be on the air longer and helps keep more stations on the air with a limited crew. Many of the rare islands are wildlife sanctuaries. Although DXpeditions have a stellar reputation for minimizing the effect on local flora and fauna, it is getting more and more challenging to get permission to land and operate from many of them.

The RIBs allow as few as a single person to set up a station in a few hours and then vacate the island. They come in once a day to fuel the generator and make sure everything is working. No tents or other infrastructure needs to be set up or disturb the wildlife. On the other hand, in my mind, something is missing if the operator you are working is in the next town using Starlink to control the radio on the island. But it is a sign of the times, and we have to go with the flow.

Further west in the Pacific, a couple of Bulgarian hams will put Wallis Islands on the air. LZ1GC and LZ5QZ will operate with the callsigns FW8GC and TX8GC, respectively. I sure hate those special French TO and TX callsigns. You have no idea where they are. Anyway, keep an eye out for them from February 19 through March 9.

Guyana is not particularly rare, but you can go a long time between making a contact with someone there. A group of Europeans will be there for ten days starting February 14. The call sign will be 8R7X.

The Intrepid DX Group is off again, this time to Temotu in the Pacific from February 22 through March 7. They will also be active in the ARRL DX SSB contest. Look for H40WA. The ARRL DX contests are coming up. The CW weekend is February 17-18, and the SSB weekend is March 2-3. Look for activity the week before them as contest DXpeditions check out their equipment and propagation.

Contests

RTTY and DX contests are on the schedule for the next month. RTTY is an interesting mode. If you are currently operating FT8, you already have the equipment. You just need software. I like MMTTY, which is a free download. It integrates well with the N1MM+ logging program. Unlike FT8, you have to tune around to work stations. You also get a lot more printing errors with RTTY.

The CQWW WPX RTTY contest is up first. This is a work-anyone contest. Send a signal report and serial number. QSO points vary depending on whether you are working your own country, another North American country, or stations in other continents. It also depends on the band. Multipliers are call sign prefixes, so there are a lot of them. Check the rules.

The other RTTY contest is the North American QSO Party. This is a short one, where you work a maximum of 10 of 12 hours. The exchange is your name and state. Power is limited to 100 watts.

The ARRL DX Contests will happen in the next month. CW is the first with the SSB weekend in early March. I like the ARRL DX contests because the world only works the US and Canada. You don't have the frustration of some rare African station only working Europe. We send a signal report and state. They send a signal report and their power. I find that part interesting. It is not always the high power stations with the big signals. That wraps up February. See you on the air!

Following on the next page . . .

**W9XT's Contest, Operating, and DXpeditions Tips
for use in February and early March 2024 . . .**

W9XT's Contest, Operating, and DXpeditions for February and early March 2024

W9XT's DXpedition picks for February and early March 2023					
QTH	Dates	Call	Bands	Mode	Link/notes
Fiji	Feb 7-10	3D2	HF		Four separate calls
Samoa	Feb 10-19	5W	HF		Four separate calls
Juan Fernandez	Feb 10-24	CB0ZA	160-6M	CSD	https://cb0za.com/
Guyana	Feb 14-24	8R7X	160-6M	CSD	
Wallis Island	Feb 19-Mar 9	FW8GC and TX8GC	160 HF	CSD	
Tonga	Feb 20-27	A35	HF		Four separate calls
Temotu	Feb 22 - Mar 7	H40WA	160 HF	CSD	https://intrepid-dx.com/h40wa
Fiji	Feb 27-Mar 1	3D2	HF		Four separate calls

Modes: C = CW, S = SSB, D = Digital (may include RTTY)

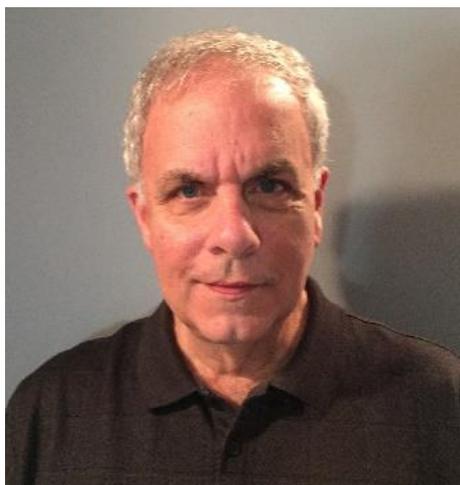
W9XT's contest picks for February and early March 2023					
Name	Start	Length	Bands	Mode	Link
CQ WPX RTTY	0000Z Feb 10	48, work 30 max	80-10	RTTY	https://www.cqwprrty.com/
ARRL DX CW	000Z Feb 17	48 hours	160-10	CW	http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
NAQP RTTY	1800 Z Feb 24	12, work 10	80-10	RTTY	https://ncjweb.com/
ARRL DX SSB	0000Z Mar 2	48 hours	160-10	SSB	http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
WIQP	1800Z Mar 10	7	160-UHF	CW, voice, RTTY	https://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm

Dates/Times in UTC. Subtract 6 hours from UTC to get local (CST). HF = 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 Meters

W9XT's operating & event picks for February and early March 2023			
Event	Dates	Details	Link/notes
Jefferson Hamfest	March 17		https://www.w9mqb.org/SwapFest/

Vintage Amateur Radio

de Bill Shadid, W9MXQ



The Vintage Amateur Radio series has taken on a life of its own for this author. It has reached many parts of the country and the world. I would like to think that it was forwarded along with the rest of the Ozaukee Radio Club Newsletter – but in reality, I know that is not always the case. This is the 79th consecutive installment with the vast majority detailing a specific radio or brand setup. Five or six were plans of future articles, tips on maintenance, etc.

My plan, faithfully kept, was to write only about radios from my collection. With one exception that has been true. Only my article on the Collins KWM-1 HF Transceiver, some seven years ago, was authored by me but

based on information from its owner, my proofreader for these articles, Bob Bailey, W9DYQ. For radios that Bob and I both own, his thoughts and opinions have been found in most of my articles.



So, as we approach the end of my collected gear, it is time to reflect on where this is going. I do have a few pieces with articles pending. Those include old experiences with Gonset HF SSB Equipment that were early residents of my ham radio station, Johnson Transmitters that include the Viking II and the Viking Ranger, a Hammarlund HX-50 Transmitter, and a few more. These former pieces are survived by extensive notes and pictures.

Also, there are a few articles needing a part 2 (such the one on Electronic Keyers, for instance).

What would you like to see for articles relating to 1950 until about 1980 radios that I have not yet covered? Early Solid-State is fine but primarily focus on Vacuum Tube and Hybrid designs. Let me know in a note to my email address, W9MXQ@TWC.com.

A special note of thanks to my proofreader, Bob Bailey, W9DYQ. Bob is a lot more than a proofreader as he nearly always adds commentary that makes it into the article. He even looked at this rather non-technical article!!

©W9MXQ

Upcoming Events

de: Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY

3/17/2024 – Jefferson, WI – Tri-County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
<https://www.w9mqb.org/SwapFest/>

4/13/2024 – Stoughton, WI – Madison Area Repeater Association Hamfest
<https://w9hsy.org/hamfest-2024/>

4/27/2024 – Cedarburg, WI – Ozaukee Radio Club Spring Swapfest
<https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>

6/01/2024 – Green Bay, WI – Green Bay Mike & Key Club Hamfest
<https://www.k9eam.org/>

6/15/2024 – Neenah, WI – Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club Hamfest
<https://www.fcarc.club/>

8/24/2024 – Baraboo, WI – Circus City Amateur Radio Club Swapfest
<http://yellowthunder.org/>

9/07/2024 – Cedarburg, WI – ORC Annual Regional Fall Swapfest
<https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>

9/20/2024 – Milwaukee – HRO Superfest, ARRL Wisconsin State Convention
September 20th and 21st
<https://www.hamradio.com/>



W9XT Listens carefully on 160-Meter CW one cold and clear winter night.

Ozaukee Radio Club minutes of Membership Meeting. 1/10/2024

de: Ken Boston W9GA, Secretary

The monthly ORC meeting occurred at the senior center as we have returned to live in-person meetings, along with a streaming version held via Zoom. ORC President Bill K9GN began the meeting at 7:30 PM, with actual members attending, a go-around was conducted. Zoom attendees were also in attendance and were also introduced.

Program: [2 programs]

The elections for officers and board members was held, with Pat W9JI conducting the process. The ballot listed all incumbents who were running for reelection; no new candidates were nominated from the floor. K9QLP moved to close nominations, K9GN 2nd and the motion carried. Then K9QLP moved to record a unanimous vote to accept the slate, W9DHI 2nd, and the motion carried. However, the 2nd VP position is still open. Pat W9JI then held a trivia contest, with 16 questions that covered the history of the ORC.

50/50 Raffle: This was won by Deb Gilbertson [guest]; winning an award of \$12.50

Scholarship Auction: WB9RQR auctioned items; Dell Inspiron desktop; frequency counter, soldering kit.

Committee reports: Bill, K9GN led off by announcing that the 2024 budget was complete, included was a \$200 budget for 'swag' inventory.

1ST VP: Jeananne N9VSV: Thanks Pat for the trivia contest, as she will be doing her presentation on Philately during the next meeting. The current selection of swag is up on the website, feel free to place orders! Tom W9IPR added that those members doing projects can help ORC by doing a presentation on their project.

RPT VP: Tom KC9ONY: Current project is to build a repeater system [off-line] that can be used to sub in at a site when problems arise. Tuesday net is doing well, 11-12 check-ins, and 222 system running decently.

Hamfest: Tom W9IPR: Fall hamfest is now reserved at Fireman's Park for September 7, and will be listed with the ARRL on their calendar.

Treasurer: Gary N9UUR: Now at 90 paid members, and he expressed satisfaction in the outcome of the 2023 audit. Motion to accept made by KC9FZK, 2nd by W9GA, and carried.

Secretary: Ken W9GA: reported that the December 2023 minutes have been posted, a motion to accept was made by N9VSV; 2nd by W9JI and carried.

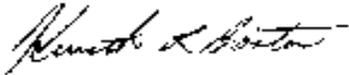
STEM: Pat W9JI: Met with the West Bend public library and is now working on a proposal to place some Ham radio publications and STEM 'kits' at the library, plus giving presentations in summer.

Tech: Work is proceeding on a spare RPT link system; coverage maps are being updated and placed on the club website.

[**OLD none**] **NEW business:** Audit committee [K9QLP, W9KEY, KC9FZK, K9GN, N9UUR] has completed the audit, and all looks correct, and process went smoothly.

Adjournment: WB9RQR moved to adjourn, W9QLP 2nd, motion carried; time end was 9:00 PM. There were 17 in-person attendees, 18 zoom attendees.

Respectfully submitted;



Kenneth Boston W9GA, Secretary:



This Month's Meeting: February 14, 2024 - 7:30 PM
Program: Amateur Radio-Related Philately
(Stamp Collecting)

de: Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV



Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV here. I've been a ham for 30 years and 've been collecting amateur radio-related stamps for just as long. Come to our February meeting to see what I've been up to all these years, hi hi! I guarantee that this will not be like your uncle's collection, that's for sure!

Upcoming Meeting Programs:

March 13, 2024, 7:30 PM

Dave Ellison, W7UUU

Dave is back to finish what he started telling us about rebuilding the shack that burned down. If you recall, Dave was forced to cancel his presentation twice, due to poor internet service. Now that the internet service has been greatly improved in his area, we hope the third time's the charm.

April 10, 2024, 7:30 PM

Vic Shier, WT9Q

Presentation on his 160m Dipole and 80m Fan Dipole Antennas.

Creating a Presentation

The monthly program is the highlight of the Ozaukee Radio Club meeting. We are fortunate to have many talented people in our club, many of whom have shared their knowledge through a presentation. Programs can be on any ham radio-related topic. Please consider sharing some of your experiences with the rest of us. If you have an idea and would like some help putting a program together, contact me at 1stvp@ozaukeeradioclub.org.

We are also currently in need of a member to chair the programming committee. If you have any programming experience or think you would enjoy coordinating our monthly meeting programs, please let me or any of the board members know.

ORC Meeting Agenda

14 February 2024

1. 7:15 – 7:30 PM
Check-In and Introductions
 2. 7:30 PM Call to Order:
President Bill Greaves (K9GN)
 3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming Events, etc.
 4. Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV
Amateur Radio-Related Philately
 5. President's Update:
Bill Greaves (K9GN)
 6. 1st VP Report:
Jeananne Bargholz (N9VSV)
 7. Repeater VP Report:
Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY)
 8. Secretary's Report:
Ken Boston (W9GA)
 9. Treasurer's Report:
Gary Bargholz (N9UUR)
 10. Committee Reports
 11. OLD BUSINESS
 12. NEW BUSINESS
 13. Adjournment
-



The Back Page

**This Month's ORC Meeting
Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Meeting
14 February 2024**

**Program:
Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV
Amateur Radio-Related Philately (Stamp Collecting)**

**7:00 PM – Doors Open
7:15-7:30 PM – Zoom Check-In
7:30 PM – Meeting Begins**

**NEXT MONTH
Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Meeting
13 March 2024**

**Program:
Dave Ellison, K7UUU
Rebuilding the shack after it burned down.**