



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.



AMATEUR RADIO

ORC Repeaters on 146.97, 224.18 and 443.750 MHz -
Callsign W9CQO Web site: www.ozaukeeradioclub.org

Volume XXVIII

September, 2009

Number 9

From the President

De Bill Howe II (KA9WRL)

The Ozaukee Radio Club is similar to most Radio Clubs in the country, I suspect. The turn-outs at the meetings are average to good, but operating activities are usually attended by the same small group of members!

For a large group, like the ORC, that's not too critical. The larger the membership, the larger the active group within the club.

The reason I'm bringing this up is because of an event that's going to take place the last weekend in September. It's the "Great Lakes Centennial Jamboree" on the EAA grounds in Oshkosh.

My other club, LeFrog, has volunteered to do the Ham Radio demo for the Scouts attending this jamboree. This large encampment (over 2,800 Scouts) is only held once every 6 or 7 years and this year is Scouting's 100th anniversary! This is LeFrog's 3rd effort with the GLCJ.

LeFrog is a very small club and, as a result, the turnout for our operating activities is even smaller. That's where the ORC comes in. We simply need help in pulling this off.

The ORC and LeFrog have operated side-by-side for J.O.T.A. (Jamboree On The Air), Swap-fests, the Lighthouse event and Parkside Elementary School demonstrations. Let's do it again, in style, at the EAA!

The plan is to start setting up Friday, September 25th at Noon. Some of us will be camping on the site while others may want to drive back

to Milwaukee and return for the activities Saturday morning.

The many events are scheduled for all day Saturday with a stage show "in the woods" Saturday evening. We can pack up Saturday after the activities and those who would like to stay for the show can certainly do that.

It's a great event and what better way to promote Ham Radio!

VHF & UHF Corner

De Todd Sprinkmann (KC9BQA)

The last V/UHF contest for the season is only a week away. The ARRL September VHF QSO Party is on Sept. 12/13th and all bands from 6 meters on up are in play. Link to rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sepvhf.html>

Last January, many ORC members, along with concentrations of stations in the Milwaukee, Sheboygan and La Crosse areas combined to make a VHF/UHF contest very active and enjoyable. Most of this occurred on the less-used FM simplex portions of 6m, 2m, 1.25cm and 70cm. I still smile thinking about how well that worked.

Since then, we tried hard for a similar effort in the June contest and it was an utter failure. Perhaps folks are just too busy during summer. Whatever the case, I'm not going to invest the energy I previously did unless I hear of some interest from more than 2 or 3 ORC members. I don't mind putting out the effort, but I have to see some reciprocal enthusiasm. Even email or discussion on the ORC reflector about what you would like to see would be most welcome.

I'm always looking for learning opportunities.

The good news is that on the SSB side (where 80-90% of VHF/UHF contesting fun is had) we've had solid numbers all summer. So across WI/IL/IA/MN/MI, the effort to promote more activity on VHF is working.

As always, I encourage anyone with even light interest in V/UHF to invest a few minutes a week at my website <http://www.kc9bqa.com> Every week, I announce the weekly nets, and type up post-net reports that indicate who all got on from where. Then during contest times, we make a special effort to stir up more activity.

For those who are used to thinking of contests in HF terms, there's no comparison to V/UHF contests. The activity levels are lower, the pace is more relaxed and we can always use more participants, whether you're a total beginner or intermediate-level. Anyone with interest is urged to contact me directly, and I'll help you get where you want to go.

Since some of you probably don't check my website or the ORC Yahoo remailer, you need to know about the following sprints which will occur in September and early October. The sprints are one-evening, one-band events where we get on 144, 222, 432, 6 meters and see who all we can work during a 4-hour period. These are quite relaxed, and newcomers are welcome. In the evening, it's not unusual to get good propagation and even modest stations may work out 100-300 miles.

The 144 fall sprint is from 6-10pm on Monday, Sept. 21st.
222 sprint same time on Tuesday, Sept. 29th.
432 sprint same time on Wed., Oct. 7th.
50 sprint same time on Sat. Oct 24th.
The link for full rules: http://www.svhfs.org/fall_sprint_rules_2009.pdf
Due to column restrictions, don't omit that final "f" on the 2nd line.

Those of you who have no idea what is possible in times of tropo enhancement missed a whopper of an opening on 2m from Sunday evening Aug. 23rd thru most of Tuesday, Aug. 25th. A

duct set up from roughly KS/MO/IL/WI into the northeast, New England and even adjacent Canada. 100's of Q's were made over 400 - 1100 mile paths. Not all were made by super-stations, either. A local friend N9NDP out of Kenosha worked into Vermont on 2m SSB, with a 5-el quad up 30' and 150 watts out. I'm sure some of you noticed skip on repeaters or simplex. I was on vacation, sigh. It was a nice vacation, though.

Lighthouse Weekend

Bill Howe, KA9WRL

The weather for the Lighthouse Weekend was typical for Wisconsin. It was warm & sunny, it was cold & overcast, it was calm & dry and, of course, windy and wet!



The lighthouse station on the hill at Port Washington was the site of our special event station

The ORC and LeFrog combined efforts to make the Special Event weekend a success, despite the weather. While locals and tourists enjoyed the music, food and Tall Ship experience at Rotary Park, others braved the road construction on St. Mary's hill and visited the historic 1860 Lighthouse.

This was our 2nd year operating on the grounds just east of the Lighthouse. While we didn't get the exposure we had in the past in Rotary Park, we did get the peace and quiet needed for good 2-way communications. Of course, we would've

preferred to be amongst the throngs at the lake-front, for Public Relations reasons.



Tom (AA9XK) and Tom (W9VBQ) had some very curious onlookers.

Tom Nawrot, AA9XK, Julia Nawrot, KB9WBQ, Loren Jentz, N9ENR (a new ORC member), Tom Murtaugh, W9VBQ and I operated the Special Event station from Noon 'til about 4:30pm on Sunday. Our equipment consisted of Loren's ICOM IC-736, Heil Gold line Mic with Footswitch, Bencher Straight Key and Paddle, Tom Ruhlmann's Clear Speech Speaker, my Bird Wattmeter and LeFrog's 20m Dipole (as an Inverted V) supported by LeFrog's 28' Military Fiberglass Mast.

Our first 3 contacts were with other Lighthouse Special Event stations and throughout the afternoon we managed to work 2 others, then a station reporting numbers for 4 Lights (2 US & 2 Canadian)! This totaled 9 Lighthouse-to-Lighthouse contacts!

Other contacts included stations like the Navajo Code Talkers Special Event in Window Rock, Arizona plus various QSO's around the U.S. and Canada. We tried a few times to log some DX, but the pile-up's were relentless.

All in all it was a great weekend, starting with the Corn Roast and ending with the Lighthouse Special Event. Thanks to Tom & Julia Nawrot for organizing the Lighthouse event. Maybe next year we can entice more members to get

involved. After all, we do have the technology to set up more radios and antennas!



Tom (AA9XK), Bill (KA9WRL) and Loren (N9ENR) had a great time with Loren's IC736 station operating portable in the sun with a view of the tall ships.

Corn Roast 2009



Stan couldn't make it this year and Past President Mike Yugas (AB9ON) took over the grilling duties producing some really great burgers and brats.



Bob Truscott (W9LO) and Gary Sharbuno (WI9M) take a few moments with a corn and a beer to discuss the field day CW performance.



There was a nice crowd with much visiting, plenty to eat and refreshments abound.



Some (Ed Rate and Julia Nawrot) snuck away from the tables to have a second, third or ? of the really great Mequon corn which was boiled and buttered to perfection.



There was much to do after lunch including ladder ball as played here by Pres. Bill Howe (KA9WRL) and Gary Sutcliffe (K9XT), bingo with prizes as called by Julia Nawrot (KB9WBQ) and a transmitter hunt as conducted by Leon Rediske (K9GCF).

HISTORY OF THE ORC CORN ROAST

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

The question of why we call the corn roast a ROAST, when it's obviously a corn BROIL was asked recently. And for every question there is always at least one answer. Here's my recollection of the why.

Back in the early days of the club, somewhere about 1965, Hal Giese, W9RXJ, suggested that a corn roast would be a nice social event which would be a fun thing, and would bring the club members closer and present an opportunity for us to get to know each other a little better. Everyone thought it would be a good idea, so we did it.

The members got together somewhere, I don't remember just where, Hal brought the corn, somebody else brought the brats and burgers, and 3 or 4 people brought the beer. We all brought our families and had a heck of a good time. We had a charcoal burner, and laid the corn out on a grill above it, just as we now do for the brats and burgers. So we actually did have a corn ROAST. The only problem was that the ratio of corn to beer was a little lopsided, and as a result the corn chef got a little careless with his duties. Some ears got turned over too soon, some too late, and some not at all. So what we ended up with was a bunch of ears that were charred on one side and raw on the other, to varying degrees, depending upon how many distractions the chef encountered.. This went on for a number of years because we couldn't seem to control the corn to beer ratio.

Then one summer Ralph Evans, WA9UDZ and Dick Hugi, KC9CJ, took a 60 gallon drum to Ralph's back yard and cut it up with a welding torch to make the cooking vessel that we now use. They did a fine job, and the corn has been much better ever since. But what the heck, Corn Roast is a much sexier name than Corn Broil, so we kept the name.

Bob, W9LO

Elmer? Who's He? Getting a license the hard way

De Bob Gorjance (W5CFB)

"Back in the day" (seems like it was only a short time ago) in 1952 while walking to Junior High School, I made a new acquaintance. He invited me to his house where I noticed a Hallicrafters S-38 receiver. He told me that he could hear "hams on it". He even had me listen to CW. I mentioned that we should study so we could get our licenses. We started learning code, and then got the study guides for the written test. A few months later, I heard that "Uncle Charlie" was coming to town the next week to administer tests and told my friend to get cookin!

I began studying the written every day. I went down, took the test and passed it. My friend didn't test and had to wait three more months for the next test cycle. He passed and we really got into radio. I got a Heathkit AT-1 xmtr and the AR-2 rcvr for Christmas, and my buddy got a Harvey Wells TBS-50C. This was back in 1952. We have been hams and best friends for all these years.

Now for the bad news. Within a 1/3 mile radius of my house lived 6 hams! Four of us were located in roughly about 100 yards of each other. When things were poppin, the local QRM was truly incredible. Key clicks, AM sidebands, and shortly after getting my General, SSB reared its ugly head. It sounded terrible after listening to that great sounding AM. Now we complain about AM, go figure!

Calls held - WN5CFB - W5CFB - DL5GR - W9IYM - and back to W5CFB with the vanity program. What a ride!

The start of a rover station -

- Part One

De Mark Potash (KC9GST)

This past spring, I decided to build a rover station. My enthusiasm for creating this station was spiked by Todd Sprinkman's KC9BQA interest-

ing and exciting e-mails and website. After listening to his nets, I felt that he could provide the resources and mentoring which would allow me to pursue this project at my own pace. I planned to pursue this project as far as my abilities would lead me, and then rely on the help and expertise of all the people that were offering their time and energy to answer questions I could not resolve by myself.

This rover station project intrigued me on many levels. I liked the idea of operating mobile, and being able to set the truck up for contest weekends or trips. Also, I could use the equipment at our existing QTH, have the ability to store all the equipment (if we move to a condo), and easily move it all to another location (field day or a demonstration).

I decided to begin my rover station by building the antenna and antenna support first because I don't have any radio equipment for the vhf and uhf bands other than my 2 meter fm mobile. I started the project by utilizing a used man lift which I had purchased a few years earlier.



The first step was to get the lift operational and remove all the extra parts that I didn't need. I started a log book to keep track of all the information that I found out about the lift. My entries included part numbers, wiring diagrams, dimensions, parts that I added, sketches of parts that I fabricated, and ideas I had as I was working on it. It took some time to figure out how to get the lift operational. I was fortunate to be able to call

on Terry Koller, KA9RFM. When I got stuck on a problem, he would come over and straightened me out.

There were many essential elements that I wanted to accomplish in this project which included:

- A complete unit wired to the truck without any additional work or assembly. This meant that everything would be pre-attached to the lift.
- A quick connection to the truck that could be accomplished by one person while using the truck as a counter weight.
- The unit would travel in a compact position on the truck allowing for the operational location to change without the operator having to get out of the truck.
- The lift centered on the truck so to allow the maximum beam length without overhanging the truck.



Next, I mounted it in the truck with an attached rotor and a 2 meter and a 440 beam antenna. Additionally, I added an aluminum angle for mounting omni directional antennas that I would build in the future. By this time, I was pretty far along and needed a reality check and some good input. I called Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, and asked if I could show him what I was working on. He gave me some good ideas and encouragement. I am working on one of his ideas

which is a way to change the polarization of the antennas automatically. .

Meanwhile, Field Day was getting closer, and I needed to determine the number of towers each band captain wanted to use. I asked Gary N9UUR and Jeananne N9VSV Bargholz if they would consider putting their 6 meter beam on the lift. We met so they could look at it to see if it would work. They agreed to use the lift, and gave me some input and ideas to consider

Subsequently, I made a few changes for using it at field day. I put a stub pipe in the rotor since we weren't driving with the beam in place. This let us add a taller vertical pipe into the stub pipe and got the beam height up to 47 ft. (as a rover it would be at 42 ft. and travel at under 9 ft. when driving.) Additionally, I removed the fixed angle so it would not cause interference (will be replaced with a fiberglass angle) Also, they did some testing while they were operating. In addition, I have installed a power strip to plug in the radios and equipment. I also installed an inverter to handle the rotor control and the computer for logging. Currently, I'm fabricating a plate to bring the coax in the sliding glass window.



Mark's rover "man lift" tower as used with a 6 meter beam at field day

I had a great time showing it off and being able to have it used at field day.

Thanks to everyone for looking it over and offering ideas. It was a nice experience being able to ask so many club members for advice,

and a great example of what I hope ham radio will always be about.

Now on to the inside of the truck, that will be part-2.

Junk Box Product



Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) took a few moments at the meeting auction to explain some of the intricate details of the Discone antenna he fabricated from the lampshade his wife Nancy (KC9FZK) was discarding.

Upcoming Events

September

- 6th North American Sprint – SSB Contest
- 9th **Membership Meeting**
- 12th **ORC Outdoor Swapfest**
- 12th Chicago FM Club Swapfest @ Belvidere @ Boone County Fairgrounds
- 12th-13th ARRL VHF QSO Party
- 19th W9DXCC convention at Elk Grove Village
- 24^h OZARES
- 26th – 27th CQ WW RTTY Contest

October

14th Membership Meeting

17th – 18th JOTA Boy Scout “on the air”

Weekend @ Pioneer Village

22nd OZARES

24th – 25 CQ DX WW SSB Contest

25-27 BSA Jamboree @ Oshkosh

November

7st – 8th ARRL November CW Sweepstakes

11th Membership Meeting

21st–22nd November Phone Sweepstakes

28th – 29th CQ WW CW DX Contest



De Joe Strumberg (KA9DFZ)

Minutes— August 12th, 2009

De Chuck Curran (W9POU)

Tom Nawrot AA9XK opened the meeting at 7:30 PM. Tom asked for the group to introduce themselves, and also make two statements about themselves, one true and one false. The group could then speculate on which was the accurate statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bob Truscott, W9LO shared with the group the pending SSB Phone contest.

- Jon Gilmore KB9RHZ mentioned the Amateur Radio activity that will be present at the upcoming State Fair. Check out booths 1412 and 1414 for more excitement.
- Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, showed the group a Discone Antenna made from the frame of an old lamp shade. Very clever use of this material resulted in two antenna's that were later offered at the nightly auction.
- Ed Rate, AA9W, announced that he had received mail from Elna, NY in regards to an Electro-magnetic pulse conference, being held 9/8 through-9/10
- The Washington County ARES Group will have a meeting and this will help to fill in the action in Washington County.

NIGHTLY PROGRAM

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR provided an introduction for the club in regards to WINLINK 2000. A Power-Point presentation was presented reviewing the details of the WINLINK 2000 operating system and requirements. Lots of interests and questions during and after the presentation, a great program.

BRAT & BURGERFEST

The planned Ozaukee Radio Club Corn roast Brat & Burger fest was announced. It will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2009 at the Waubedonia Park. Dave Barrow N9UNR has already sent out detailed maps for the exact location. A great help to all! A sign-up sheet was circulated for those planning on attending.

Equipment Donation

Ed Rate, AA9W, announced that the Ozaukee Radio Club had received another donation of equipment. Ed provided many pictures of what had been donated and would be on sale. This lot included Ham equipment, along with audio and test gear.

Raffle & Auction

Chuck Curran, W9POU won the nightly raffle. Stan conducted the nightly auction and the Discone antennas were sold, and a variety of other interesting electronic items.

MEETING MINUTES

Tom Nawrot requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mike Yugas moved for the approval. A correction was required in two areas, after the correc-

tion, the minutes were approved by the attending group.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, provided the treasurer's report. A printed summary of all of the transactions since the last meeting was circulated to the group for review. There is currently \$12,616.17 available for Ozaukee Radio Club operations. Ed Rate, AA9W, moved to accept the minutes; the motion was seconded by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

REPEATER REPORT

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB shared with the group that someone has been keying the repeater, but never actually talking. It is hoped that the individual will start to talk in the next few weeks! All the equipment is now back to normal, with everything functional at this point in time.

FIELD DAY REPORT

Leon Rediske, K9GCF, provided a very comprehensive Field Day summary. A great time was had by all participants and respectable scores were shared with the club.

SSB Contacts

80 Meters 40
40 Meters 778
20 Meters 976
15 Meters 48

CW Contacts

80 Meters 127
40 Meters 865
20 Meters 512
15 Meters 242

6 Meter SSB 92
2 Meter CW 2
2 Meter Phone 14
70 Cm 1
Satellite 2

CORN ROAST DISCUSSION

A very complete discussion took place the pending August 15th Corn Roast/Burger & Brat Fry. Volunteers accepted cooking assignments, food pick-ups and all of the required tasks had an assigned helper to make the event a success.

LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVATION

Tom Nawrot, AA9XK, reminded the group of the pending Lighthouse operating activity. Tom has been in communication with Sara Grover, who is part of the Maritime Festival. The operation will be up on the hill, right by the Lighthouse. The activity will be on Sunday morning only, 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM

SEPTEMBER SWAPFEST

Gabe Chido, WI9GC, Asked about the free coffee idea, a discussion followed. Gabe will be sending out an e-mail to the folks that helped last year during this Swapfest, looking for additional support. Donuts will be sold. A suggestion was made to buy coffee at a good price from the Cedarburg Fire Department. These ideas will be discussed further.

OLD BUSINESS

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, recommended that we all place our chairs under the table at the end of the meeting. He also mentioned that one Dell Field Day computer was still in need of a home until next June. Ron Yokes will be the care taker.

ADJOURNMENT

Dave Barrow, N9UNR, motioned for adjournment. Kent Christiansen, N9WH, seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM

ATTENDANCE:

Tom Nawrot AA9XK, Jeff Alper WB9PZD, Tom Ruhlmann W9IPR, Ray Totzke W9KHH, John Ansay, KC9GJD, Mark Tellier, AB9CD, Roger Zaun W9UJV, Joe Sturmberg KA9DFZ, Tom Murtaugh W9VBQ, Bob Truscott W9LO, Ron Yokes W9BCK, Mike Yuhus AB9ON, M. Greenfield N9JIY, Paul Purgett KC9NHD, Leon Rediske K9GCF, Ed Frac AA9WW, Julia Nawrot KB9WBQ, Kate Holt, Ed Seigworth AA9GT, Jon Gilmore KB9RHZ, Stan Kaplan WB9RQR, Kent Christiansen N9WH, Dave Barrow N9UNR, Ed Rate AA9W, Dean, Hector, Terry Koller KA9RFM, Chuck Curran W9POU, Todd Fast N9DRY, Mark Fleckow KB9PXE, Nels Harvey WA9JOB, Gabe Chido WI9GC

AGENDA

Sept. 9, 2009

1. Call to order – Bill Howe (KA9WRL)
 2. Introductions.
 3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
 4. Program: Receiving Antenna – Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR) and Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)
 5. Fellowship Break
 6. Auction.
 7. Acceptance of Minutes as printed.
 8. Treasurer's report – Nels (WA9JOB).
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9. Repeater report – John (W9NRG)
 10. Committee reports.
Sept. Swapfest -
Corn Roast –
Special Event Station –
BSA Jamboree @ Oshkosh –
JOTA @ Pioneer Village -
 11. OLD BUSINESS
 12. NEW BUSINESS
 13. 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 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, Sept. 9th

7:30 PM