



# 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 XXVIII

October, 2009

Number 10

## From the President

De Bill Howe II (KA9WRL)

One of the articles in this month's ORC Newsletter is a report on the Great Lakes Centennial Jamboree up in Oshkosh and our involvement in that event.

This is but one event that comes up on occasion where we, as a club, can show off our skills in Amateur Radio as a hobby and Public Service. Other opportunities include school activities like "Opportunity Days" and Scouting activities like "Jamboree On The Air" and "Jamboree On The Internet".

Let's not forget parades. The OZARES vehicle should be in every local parade in Ozaukee County. Events like Fish Days, Bicycle Rides, Walks and simulated emergency exercises should be mandatory participation on our ORC calendar by at least some members of our club!

Pick out one or more event that the club gets involved in and volunteer to help out. If you can't do physical work, we can always use your experience and knowledge to make the event easier, safer, more interesting, and fun for everyone involved.

I'm not saying every member be at every event. That's not going to happen. What I AM saying, however, is that we should ALL be more involved in keeping our club AND Ham Radio alive and well.

## Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

The fall contesting season is here, and it presents an opportunity for a little "payback" to our friends to the south who joined in to make the WI QSO Party a big success back in March. It's the Illinois QSO Party on Oct. 18. CW, phone, or both. 160 thru 10M, plus 6 & 2M for the VHF gang. Get the rules at [www.w9awe.org](http://www.w9awe.org).

Then there's the biggie for the phone ops, the CQ WW SSB Contest on Oct. 24. 160 thru 10M. Rules at [www.cqww.com](http://www.cqww.com).

And then, the REAL biggie for the folks who like CW. The NOVEMBER. CW SWEEPSTAKES on Nov. 7-8. 160 thru 10M. Rules at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests). That's going to be a tough one to manage, because I want to work the full 24 hours of the contest, but find time to watch the Packers game at noon on Sunday.

The contest period is 30 hours, 24 of which we can operate, leaving 6 hours for eating, sleeping and "potty calls". I can cut back on the eating & sleeping time, but some things are non-negotiable. I hope to work a bunch of club members in this contest, but not during the Packers game.

## VHF & UHF Corner

De Todd Sprinkmann (KC9BQA)

September was a busy month for active VHF'ers. The highlight was the ARRL VHF QSO Party on the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. My claimed score of 88946 was a new personal high for Sept. This score should get me into the top 7 or 8 in the USA, for single-op, low power category. (Limits are: 200w max on 6 & 2m, 100w max

on 1.25cm & 70cm, and 10w max above 432 MHz)

Band-by-band breakdown of my contest:

50:	102	Q's	in	28	grids
144:	135	Q's	in	36	grids
222:	68	Q's	in	31	grids
432:	85	Q's	in	28	grids
900:	17	Q's	in	14	grids
1296:	Was	dead	this	year	
2304:	7Q's in 6 grids.				

I'm sure some of you are wondering "what's a grid?" Google "Maidenhead Grid Square". Perhaps a picture would help. Two links to grid square maps:

<http://www.newsvhf.com/grid-na.gif>  
[http://www.oema.us/files/Amateur\\_Radio\\_US\\_Grid\\_Square\\_Map.pdf](http://www.oema.us/files/Amateur_Radio_US_Grid_Square_Map.pdf)

In any V/UHF contest or sprint, the exchange is call sign and grid square. When you work a station from a new grid square, your score increases nicely. You work as many hams as possible, but are also rewarded for working different grid squares, which is the motivation for improving your station and operator skills -- being able to hear well and work DX.

I wish I had the computer skills to color in a grid map of what I worked in this contest 3 weeks ago. Maybe someone can email me with the way to accomplish this. But I realized some days after the contest that I hit a personal milestone in 6+ years of VHF'ing. I worked my 100<sup>th</sup> grid square on 2 meters, when I had a QSO with KG9Z in EN90, east-central Ohio.

The bands were in good shape all weekend for the contest. Midwest guys were working into Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York on bands like 50, 144, 222 and 432 MHz on Sat. evening and late into the night.

On Mon. evening, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, there was a 4-hour sprint for the 2 meter band only. That was the busiest sprint I've seen in 6+ years. ORC members were invited to join in on the fun via my weekly emails to the Yahoo reflector.

I point hundreds of hams in/near WI to my website posts. Consider my website at V/UHF newspaper. If you read the paper a few times a week, you're all caught up.

Here's a link to my 144 sprint report from 2 Mondays ago. Had 64Q's in 22 grids over a 4-hour span. <http://kc9bqa.com/?p=994>

We're running very successful weekly nets on both SSB (Wed. night) and FM (Thur. night) The idea is to draw in folks from all directions, and increase activity on lightly-used bands. Here's a report that I posted after the Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 146.43 FM net. <http://kc9bqa.com/?p=987>

For a sample SSB net report, go to the main page at <http://www.kc9bqa.com> and scroll down the front page. We're raising 30-50 VHF'ers across a multi-state region every Wed.

Want to get involved? I will try to help. Just email me. Or do research on my website. Enjoy this website post, about cheap yagis you can build yourself. Many hams have built these, and are working 100-200 mile contacts. <http://www.wa5vjb.com/yagi-pdf/cheapyagi.pdf>

432 MHz sprint is 7-11pm Wed. Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. The action will be around 432.070-432.130 MHz. 50 MHz sprint is 6-10pm Sat. Oct 24<sup>th</sup>. 50.125 up to 50.170 or so.

Full sprint info:  
[http://svhfs.org/fall\\_sprint\\_rules\\_2009.pdf](http://svhfs.org/fall_sprint_rules_2009.pdf)

## Scholarship Awarded

The Foundation for Amateur Radio has announced the winner of the ORC \$1000 scholarship for the year 2009. It is Benjamin Steffes (KC9PMN) or North Fond du Lac, WI. Ben is 20 and a senior at MSOE in mechanical engineering. He is also a flight instructor and commercial pilot and enjoys contesting and fox hunting.

### Letter from Ben Steffes

Ozaukee Radio Club Members,

I was selected as the recipient of your annual scholarship through the Foundation for Amateur Radio. Thank you for offering this scholarship. The letter I received asked me to provide a photo and a brief biography, so I will tell you a little about myself.



**Ben Steffes (KC9PMN) is the 2009 ORC Scholarship awardee. Congratulations Ben. Letter from Ben to ORC**

I am originally from Fond du Lac, WI. I attended Fox Valley Technical College in Oshkosh to pursue my pilot license. After getting my flight ratings, I flight instructed for a short time before taking a job with Mesaba Airlines, a subsidiary of Northwest Airlines. While flying, I came to realize that I was spending too much time away from my family and friends. I decided I wanted to have a life again instead of living out of a bag. Last December, I left the airlines to study Mechanical Engineering at MSOE.

I was introduced to amateur radio by Brandon Ullrich (KE5WOR), a student member of the MSOE Amateur Radio Club. Shortly after meeting with Brandon, I joined the club and took my test for both Technician and General class.

I am enjoying my time at MSOE both in class and in the shack. I plan to stay involved with the club and hopefully get more involved in the community events around Milwaukee.

Thank you for the Scholarship!

73, Ben Steffes KC9PMN

## **ORC Fall Swapfest**

The fifth annual Fall Swapfest was held at Fireman's Park in Cedarburg on September 12<sup>th</sup>. While it was a good time and the scholarship fund had sales of over \$600 we had a serious conflict with the Burlington Swapfest (old Grayslake) and it had a serious impact on attendance.



**Vendors lined both sides of the main aisle providing much to see and many bargains.**



**Ed Rate (AA9W) and Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR) brought two trailers of boat anchor receivers, test equipment, tubes, accessories, components and good stuff to sell as bargains. They did well moving some of the really heavy iron and earning over \$600 for the scholarship fund.**



**Terry Koller (KA9RFM) was at the swapmeet with a display of the miniature model engines he machines and builds. The one before him is two cylinders and has a radiator, ignition system and carburetor. It uses a special fuel mixture and upon hand cranking, it runs.**



**Chairman Gabe Chido (W19GC) was still yawning as the sun rose and the vendors started arriving at 06:00.**

## **BSA Great Lakes Centennial Jamboree**

Bill Howe, KA9WRL

A few weeks ago, LeFrog and the ORC had the opportunity to show off our Amateur Radio skills up at the EAA grounds in Oshkosh. The event was the Great Lakes Centennial Jamboree.

This 3-day "adventure" had been in the planning stages for 3 years and its purpose was to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. It included 12 statewide Councils, 8 Guest Councils and over 9,000 participants from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota!

Beside myself, the Hams that helped out in our area included Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, Loren Jentz, N9ENR, Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY, Barry Sprifke, W9BLS, Ed Frac, AA9WW, Dan Workenour, N9ASA, Tom Murtaugh, W9VBQ, Steve St. Onge, W9MCU and Doug Shultz, N9EZF from the Fond du Lac club.

We were fairly busy in the Amateur Radio area, with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Leaders not only talking on the radio, but many working on their Radio Merit Badge.



The area setup was completed just as we received a few sprinkles. There were two towers with antenna etc., four HF stations, three tents, one RV, one travel trailer and one equipment trai-

ler supported by about 7 LeFrog and 2 ORC members

Our set-up included 50' and 30' aluminum towers with HF & VHF antennas, an HF di-pole and 2 HF verticals. The ICOM-736 pretty much stayed on 20m, while my old Ten Tec Omni D was a workhorse on 40m. Tom Ruhlmann's "HF in a Suitcase" and Solar Panel worked some serious DX while my little HW-8 in the Military Field Desk sat there receiving CW signals down in the Technician part of the 20m band.

There were literally thousands of Scouts in 5 "Sub Camps" camping and cooking for the 3-day weekend. Other activities included obstacle courses, rock climbing, kayaking, disc golf, robotics, geocaching, monster trikes, pumpkin chucking, rifle, archery, kite flying R/C airplanes and the list goes on.

One of the most popular areas was the paintball range. All day long on Saturday the sound of machine gun paintballs hitting large targets echoed through the grounds and lines of Scouts, sometimes 50 or more deep, kept the sponsors of that area busier than any other area of the Jamboree (in my opinion). The boys should be THAT interested in Ham Radio, but I'm afraid, these days, it's no contest!



**Bill Howe (KA9WRL) helped this scout make his first ever amateur radio contact on 40 meters.**



**The main tent supported the communications merit badge councilors and provided general information about scouting and amateur radio**



**Ed Frac (AA9WW) is here helping the scouts make contacts on 20 meters. Fortunately there was a European DX contest and the Texas QSO party in process. This allowed easy access to contacts in Texas, Finland, Denmark and Slovenia. It was fun to see their**

face light up when they got a response from Finland. The typical response? “that’s cool”.



Here Loren Jentz (N9ENR) is explaining to interested onlookers how the 50 watt 12 volt solar panel works and its support of the 20 meter portable station.

We had fun. We handed out pamphlets, talked up “Jamboree On The Air” in October, ate well at the many food vendors on hand for the weekend and even got to meet Kristina Smaby, Miss Wisconsin 2009!

## Project of the Month

De: Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

One of my antennas is an 80/40 trap dipole with a 20 meter dipole as a fan beneath it. Periodically I have to lower the antenna to untangle the 20 meter dipole which seems to get wound around the supporting 80/40 unit by the wind. I usually first notice it due to the resulting high SWR on 20. I finally decided to make some spreaders to keep the two elements apart used some PVC conduit I had in the junk box with the following results.



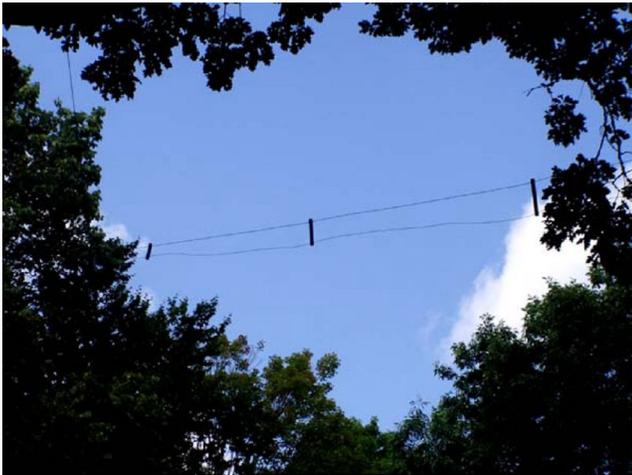
The conduit was cut into 4”, 6”, 8” and 10” lengths with the shorter spacers to be used nearest the center balun.



A thin 1” long slit was then cut in both ends of the spreaders and a small hole was drilled at the bottom of each of the slits. The hole should be about the same size as the antenna wire. The slit allows the antenna wire to be pulled into spreader. A properly sized hole will allow the spreader to clamp the antenna wire in place.



The longest spreader is used at the end of the 20 meter fan and the end insulator is secured up to the supporting 80/40 trap dipole.



And there she hangs; no longer as “stealth” but with a much better SWR.

## For Sale, Trade or ?

Lathe, wood, floor model Yates American, cast iron, variable speed, live spindle, with Craftsman duplicator - \$300 contact W9IPR

## Club Static

Dave Barrow's wife, Marian, is recovering from hip replacement. Per Dave she is up and hopping around although with the temporary assistance of a cane.

## Bernard Baum (N9QW)



**Bernard Baum (KC9PQB)/(N9QW)**

Originally Bernard grew up in Milwaukee graduating from North Division High School.

Following High School Bernard went into the Air Force and spent time on the “Due Line” radar monitoring system both in Canada and Greenland.

With the service behind him he went to UW Madison where he earned his electrical engineering degree in 1966. Then he went to Motorola where he started out designing TV components but after a few years found his true calling to be marketing. Since then he has been involved with marketing in the Pharmaceutical, Industrial Controls and Printing industries.

Bernard became interested in amateur radio upon retirement and at the urging of a Motorola friend who insisted he get an amateur radio license – so he did. He earned his Technician license (KC9PQB) in April of '09, his General in May and his Extra (N9QW) in August.

Currently his equipment and operations are limited to Echo Link with his VX-6 HT and he is fascinated by the ability to visit with others of varied and similar interest on the internet from

almost any country. Robert generally enjoys learning new things and is currently taking business law class and UNIX/LENIX classes at UWM.

Bernard and his wife Judy are currently retired and live in Whitefish Bay where they enjoy occasional visits from their daughter, a lawyer, and her two children.

Welcome to the Ozaukee Radio Club Bernard. We are looking forward to visiting at the meetings.

## Junk Box Product



Shown is the latest creation of Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) for operation on 440 MHz. Realizing that the wire frame of the 2 meter lampshade Discone might be too fragile for outdoor application he developed a new design for 440 MHz using a trouble light, PL259 connector, a length of 1/2" PVC conduit and various discarded PC hardware. It has a flat SWR throughout the band and given a chin strap it would look great worn at Dayton.

## Upcoming Events

### October

14<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> JOTA Boy Scout "on the air"  
Weekend @ Pioneer Village

22<sup>rd</sup> OZARES

24<sup>th</sup> – 25 CQ DX WW SSB Contest

### November

7<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> ARRL November CW Sweepstakes

11<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> – MRC Swapfest at the Elk's Club

21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> November Phone Sweepstakes

ARRL 160 Meter SSB contest

Christmas Parade – Grafton

28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> CQ WW CW DX Contest

### December

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> ARRL 160 Meter Contest

12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> ARRL 10 Meter Contest

9<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting

## Tips, Tails & Tools

If you have a boat anchor receiver with a 500 ohm audio output and no matching speaker, you can use a 10 watt 70 VAC PA line transformer to match the receiver output to a 4 or 8 ohm speaker. In a pinch, you could also try a 12.6 volt filament transformer with the primary (120VAC) winding to the receiver output and the 12.6 volt secondary to the speaker.

## The Repeaters

De Nels Harvey (WA9JOB)

I've noticed a significant drop in activity on the Club's repeaters over the last several months. Yes, the repeaters are all working pretty good, but here haven't been the morning chats, the plans being formulated, or just anyone responding to calls made by a few hardy folk. It wasn't too long ago that listening during the day would bring several interesting conversations into our homes and cars.

Now, I think the novelty of being able to reach out from the car, or conversing from home has been replaced by the fact we all have at least

one cell phone, and making a contact no longer is a challenge.

As we head into the colder months, there are sure to be snowy and icy roads, traffic backups, and other delays to anyone trying to get to work, a doctor appointment, or even grocery shopping. We are communicators. That's why we are into Amateur Radio!

I would like to encourage everyone to get back on the local repeaters. Dust off that old radio, kick on the power supply, and pick up the microphone. How long has it been since you have placed your call out there on any frequency? Are you sure your radio even still works?

We all spend at least some time in our cars, or around the radio shack. If you turn your radio on, you might even hear someone calling you! Let us know you are listening. Return a call to someone you may hear on the repeater. Check over your hand held radios too. When did you recharge the battery? Part of the reason we have the use of such good radio frequencies is because we are expected to be able to offer assistance using them when all else fails during a serious event. The time honored slogan of the Boy Scouts "Be Prepared" carries over to all of us as ham radio operators. We all need to be "prepared!"

## Minutes of September 9, 2009 ORC Meeting

De Nancy Stecker KC9FZK Acting Secretary

**Meeting** called to order at 7:30 by President Bill Howe. Introductions and Question of the month: What digital modes do you use and what antennas do you have?

### **Announcements:**

Ed AA9W announced the ORC Scholarship for the year has awarded \$1,000 to Ben Steffes KC9PMN, a senior at MSOE.

Dave N9UNR is hosting a CQ Food on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus building in West Bend. He will send information on the remailer.

Tom W9IPR said Heathkit manuals would no longer be downloaded at no cost from BAMA.

Mark AB9CD has a CD with Heathkit manuals, contact him if you need one.

**Program:** Gary W9XT and Tom W9IPR presented a program on the K9AY Receiving Antenna. Tom has built one to use for 160-meter contacts.

**Fellowship Break, raffle:** Mike AB9ON won the raffle this month. **Auction:** By Stan WB9RQR and Ed AA9W

### **Business Meeting**

#### *Old Business:*

Minutes as published in the newsletter were accepted, motion by Tom W9IPR and seconded by Dave N9UNR, motion passed.

*Treasurer's report* by Nels WA9JOB stated a balance of \$12,417.39 as printed in handouts at the meeting. Terry KA9RFM made the motion to accept, Leon K9GCF seconded the motion, motion passed.

*Repeater Report:* in the absence of John W9NRG, Nels WA9JOB reported the repeaters were working but not used. Tom W9IPR suggested having a permanent net control operator or two in order to get the Tuesday night net active again.

#### **Committee Reports:**

*Swapfest Committee:* Gabe WI9GC stated things under control for Saturday's Fall Swapfest.

Bill KA9WRL asked for assistance at the *Centennial Jamboree* on the weekend of September 25 and 26 held at the EAA grounds. Help will be needed in the Radio Demonstration Tent.

Dave N9UNR has been asked to be the *New Member Liaison Officer*.

**New Business:** No new business was presented to the members.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made the Dave N9UNR, seconded by Ken W9GA. The motion passed at 9:40 p.m.

**Attendance:** Stan Kaplan WB9RQR, Gabe Chido WI9GC, Nels Harvey WA9JOB, Bill Howe KA9WRL, Mike Yuhas AB9ON, Jon Gilmore KB9RHZ, Dave Barrow N9UNR, Ed Frac AA9WW, Ray Totzke W9KHH, Kate Holt KB0SIO, Dick Holt AB0VF, Nancy Stecker KC9FZK, Mark Tellier AB9CD, Ken Boston

W9GA, Gary Sutcliff W9XT, Bob Frank N9NRK,  
Terry Koller KA9RFM, Todd Fast N9DRY, Mark  
Felkow KB9PXE, Jim Caraway W9LLL, Tom  
Ruhmann W9IPR.

## **AGENDA**

*Oct. 14, 2009*

1. Call to order – Bill Howe (KA9WRL)
  2. Introductions.
  3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
  4. Program:
  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.  
Sept. Swapfest -  
Corn Roast –  
Centennial Jamboree  
Special Event Station -
  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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grafton**

**Wednesday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**