



# The *ORC* Newsletter

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



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

Volume XXIX

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## From the President

*de Chuck Curran, W9KR*



I realized this summer that my collection of Amateur Radio parts had grown too large, especially since there seemed to be a slim chance of my developing the interest in making use of certain items. That led me to make the decision to select those certain items I knew would not be used by me and then donate them to the Scholarship Fund.

I plan on continuing to thin the herd so to speak, I can't leave this for family members to deal with after I am gone. I have no plan to leave soon, but it is going to take a few trips to the barn to make the donations! So far a nice cabinet, three vacuum variable capacitors, a B & W Tank coil, along with a large rotary inductor have been donated. All items had enough dust on them to confirm the fact that they had been sitting in my basement for more than 10 years. The rest of you should consider sorting through your treasures and getting rid of that stuff that has a thick layer of dust on it.

Now the real direction for this article is I then came across two large military high voltage transformers, also part of my collection. Each one was a 1000 VAC at 500 ma output transformer. I had originally collected these in 1969 when I found them in the attic of the Engineering Fraternity I had recently joined. They were under a bunch of bed springs and other clutter, so I hauled them down stairs and asked if these were anybody's or could I have them. That started a bit of laughter from 3 or 4 of the older guys; they must have been 20 or 21? The story I got was that one of the transformers was used in a mouse trap. Yes, I got the full description.

A 6" square of copper clad circuit board material was used and it had approximately 4" diameter circle about 1/4" wide etched from the surface of the circuit board. Each of the two 1000 VAC secondary wires was soldered onto the inner circle on the circuit board and the outer ring. The next step was applying the bait to the inner circle then plugging the 120 VAC transformer primary directly into the one and only 120 VAC socket in the attic. Whenever a mouse made its last journey across the circuit board, it was immediately known downstairs, because a 15-amp screw-in type fuse would be blown, putting the third floor hall lights out, along with the entire attic. When the two "Inventor's" of this mouse trap would go up to dispose of the very dead mouse, they always found the poor thing missing at least one leg, the leg having been totally vaporized. The mouse trap was soon retired; the cost of fuses was too high.

I am not sure I will be donating those two transformers, way too many fond memories-----

## Kent Christiansen (N9WH) - SK



Here we see Kent Christiansen, N9WH, in 2002 making his first PSK-31 contact with his new Rigblaster on 20 meters. Kent was getting out using his Kenwood 950SDX transceiver, Nye Viking antenna tuner and a 500+ foot "loop" antenna strung "around" the back yard.

Kent first got interested in radio in the navy while commanding a small boat lost in the fog when all three radios on board failed. That would gain anyone's interest! Many years later, in 1992 he earned his Technician + ticket (as N9WHT) at the urging of a fellow worker at Miller Brewery (Art McGlothlin, Sr, WA9AWJ) who was President of the MRC. Our own Dave Barrow (N9UNR) then played a big hand in the process by getting Kent to his first

ORC meeting. In May of 2000 he then upgraded to Extra class, and his daughter Enid (KB9TDC), also occasionally used his rig.



Kent had a degree in chemistry and was the brew master at Miller Brewery prior to his retirement. He was an active member of the ORC, and was also a member of OZARES in the 1990's. He loved hunting and fishing and maintained a cabin in the north woods. Kent will be missed by all.

## Roger Wolverton (K9DIB) – SK



Roger died on September 11, 2016 at age 75. Lovingly survived by his children Valerie and Randall Wolverton. Beloved grandpa of Michael Wesner, Corey Rydstrom, Beau Rydstrom and Daniel Rydstrom. Proud great grandpa of Derek and Hayden Wesner and Juliette (Rydstrom). Dear brother of Nadine Hobart. Further survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents Melville and Selma Wolverton and son in law Mark Rydstrom.

As a young man he was a Boy Scout and was proud to have achieved the Eagle Scout Award. Roger graduated from UW Oshkosh with his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. He retired as a computer programmer/maintenance specialist. In his free time he enjoyed being a ham radio operator (K9DIB) and fixing clocks. Roger was a member of the Ozaukee Radio Club, Treasurer of the Wisconsin Radio Club and an avid Star Trek Fan. Private services were held.

# DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



October is here and is considered to be the best month of the year for working DX from this part of the world. The absorption on the higher bands during the summer is gone. Being just after the autumnal equinox, the day and night periods are roughly the same across the planet, giving time for both daylight and night time band openings. So radio propagation should be good, right?

Well, good is a relative term. The end of September and the first few days of October have not been very good. Solar activity led to geomagnetic disturbances. The A index, an indication of the geomagnetic field, was in the 40's at one point and has gone down slowly into the 20's in the last week or so. I start to get

concerned when it gets over 8 or 9.

The other factor is the sunspot activity which is an indication of UV light from the sun which ionizes the upper atmosphere and refracts our HF signals back to the ground, allowing for long distance communications. It is no secret that we are on the downward slide. The solar flux is currently in the 80's, but it can change rapidly as new sunspots appear or disappear. A range of +/- 20 would not be unusual.

At the bottom of the cycle it gets into the low 60's. I remember it being 250 at the peak a few cycles ago, but rarely if ever hit 200 this cycle. One rule of thumb I have is that the solar flux index has to be over 100 to get an opening into Europe on 10 meters. Opening on 10 and 12 meters to Europe and the Far East will be short and infrequent for the next 4-5 years. Openings to the south towards Africa, South America and the South Pacific will still occur regularly. That being said, 20 and 17 meters are going to be the work horse DX bands for the foreseeable future.

It should be no surprise that the biggest contest of the year is in the month of October. That, of course, is the CQ World Wide DX Contest, phone. It is always the last full weekend of the month. In 2016 the starting time is 00:00 UTC on the 29<sup>th</sup> and runs for 48 hours. In local time it starts at 7:00PM Friday night.

Use all bands from 160-10 excluding the 30, 17 and 12 meter WARC bands. You can work the same station once on each band. The exchange is the signal report and CQ zone. There are 40 zones, and we are in zone 4. QSO points vary based on where the other station is, and multipliers are the sum of zones and countries worked on each band. Work DX stations including KH6, KL7 and VEs. You can work US stations for zone and country multipliers, but they are worth zero QSO points, so only work US stations if you need them for a multiplier. Full rules can be found at <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

CQWW phone has the most activity of any contest. If you are interested in working DXCC or even just want to see what DX you can work, this is the one to try. If you have a smaller station you will find Friday night pretty frustrating because of the competition. Actually it can be frustrating with a pretty decent station from Wisconsin. Later in the contest working DX will be much easier. By Sunday afternoon the DX stations from more common countries will be begging for contacts.

A much smaller contest, but fun for a few hours is the Scandinavian Activity Contest. This starts at 12:00 UTC (7:00 am Local) on October 8 and runs for 24 hours. Work the Scandinavian countries (Norway, Finland, Sweden, Greenland, Iceland and their island territories). Send a signal report and serial number. Full rules at <http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/>

A lot of DXpeditions will occur this month, especially at the end. Going to a DX location to operate CQWW is a fun thing to do. The islands of the Caribbean are common locations. Usually they will show up the week before to get set up and learn propagation. They may also operate a lot on the WARC bands, saving the contest bands for the contest once they know everything is working.

Viet Nam will be on the air as 3W2R by a group of Spanish hams from October 20-28, all bands from 80-10. Overlapping this time N0ODK will be on from the same country using the call 3W2DK from October 20 - November 5. Propagation to this part of the world can be tough. Your best bet will be 20 or 17.

Ghana in West Africa will be activated by a group from Slovenia. The dates are October 19-26. The modes will be SSB, CW and RTTY on 80-10 meters.

At the end of the month is ZL7G from Chatham Island. This is near New Zealand and is fairly rare. It is being put on by a group of English hams who plan to operate from 160-10 meters. They will do some SBB but plan to concentrate on CW and RTTY.

That wraps up October on the radio. Finish up the antenna work before the snow flies!

## The Computer Corner

### *No. 224: Passwords*

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664  
(262) 268-1949 [wb9rqr@att.net](mailto:wb9rqr@att.net)



Note the change in my email address above. Please be sure your address book reflects this change. Changes in security at my old address (skaplan@mcw.edu; Medical College of Wisconsin) make both sending and receiving non-business mail more difficult for me. The new address in the masthead above will work fine.

As usual, the ORC breakfast on Saturday mornings provides interesting topics for this publication. This morning (1 October 2016) yielded two. One from Brian Skrentny, (N9LOO) on constructing your own secure passwords. The other from Ed Rate (AA9W) on securely erasing files and folders so that the data is unrecoverable. We'll "do" Brian's suggestion first and save Ed's

for next month.

One approach to a secure password is to have a program generate a strong password and then encrypt it (and others) in a vault. You don't have to remember the various passwords you put into the vault. You do have to remember the master password that lets you get into the vault! The encrypted passwords and the master password are all kept on your machine. There are schemes out there that keep your encrypted passwords offline (in the cloud), which turns out to be on some company's server somewhere. I don't recommend that. Keep it on your own machine. Maybe

keep a handwritten copy of the master password and the others in your safe deposit box, or in a well-hidden place away from your machine. Don't paste a copy under your keyboard, or on the frame of your computer screen! Anyway, if this is the way you want to go, one of the best around in freeware is found on [www.majorgeeks.com](http://www.majorgeeks.com/files/details/lastpass.html). Go to: [www.majorgeeks.com/files/details/lastpass.html](http://www.majorgeeks.com/files/details/lastpass.html) to see and download the latest version of LastPass, a general password manager. Its writer claims you can "generate strong passwords, knowing you'll only have to remember one, log into your favorite websites with one click, access and manage your important data from multiple workstations seamlessly" and more. This might be what you want to handle the passwords, once you have them. But let's consider what a strong password might be, and why strength might be important.

Gone are the days when a four-character password (ABCD, 4321, 24SK, 24sk, etc.) would do. Crackers can crack one of these in seconds, not minutes, using a just a home computer! So just a four, five or even a six-digit password will no longer do. Really strong passwords today consist of at least ten to a dozen characters, and as you have heard somewhere, the characters need to be a mix of digits, uppercase letters, lowercase letters and punctuation or other characters such as %, \$, # and so on. On the other hand, at breakfast today, Brian pointed out that length is more important than complexity. He also gave us a really good example. He uses something like this: **I paid \$32.02 for this shirt today.**

This example is an intelligent phrase in perfectly good English, using 35 characters. It uses caps (the very first character) and lower case letters, punctuation marks and other characters (\$, the decimal point, the spaces between words, and the period at the end), and digits (in the cost), so all the elements are there. Moreover, if you associate it with your favorite shirt, your new car, your new HT, you will not be likely to forget it. And it is strong. Brian says it would take years to crack with a supercomputer, and this is Brian's business.

So before you even start messing with a password manager, why don't you create something like Brian did, and use that here and there when necessary. Most email clients and browsers have a password manager built in and will save your choice on your computer for use on line, if you wish. And with that, let me leave you with a strong password: **Happy Computing for the 224<sup>th</sup> time!**

## ORC Fall Swapfest

De Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR



Well it was a fun day at Fireman's Park September 24<sup>th</sup>. It all started with the admissions group, headed by Jim Albrinck (K9QLP) followed by the parking directors, headed by Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR). We were a bit short on help but the crowd was down a bit also due to the competing Chicago FM Club swapfest at Burlington IL. Tower Electronics was our main commercial vendor and they also donated several door prizes. We had many local hams selling from their trunks and I was pleased to see several of our members selling from their trunk

and tables. A swapfest is not much fun without sellers – it was great fun.

There were many hard to find treasures and good buys abounded. The economics of the event



were good as well. We put about \$360 (gate less expenses) in the club treasurer and about \$490 in the scholarship fund from the sale of donated equipment. So the efforts of a few resulted in a gain of over \$800 on a Saturday morning. I was also pleased that the group handling the concession also made a profit and is interested in returning in the future.



I was especially pleased that our new ARRL Section Manager was with us taking membership applications and renewals. ARRL also supplied 3 of the door prizes. My special thanks to the following members who volunteered to make the swapfest a success:

1. Stan Kaplan – WB9RQR
2. Ed Rate – AA9W
3. Dave Barrow – N9UNR
4. Tim Boppre – KA9EAK
5. Ken Boston – W9GA
6. Nels Harvey – WA9JOB

7. Kate Holt – KB0SIO
8. Dick Holt – AB0VF
9. Chuck Meyer – KC9YEP
10. Kristian Moberg – KC9TFP
11. Pat Ruhlmann
12. John Strachota – W9FAD
13. John Thielen – WA9KNY
14. AL Wyckoff – AB9AL
15. Bill Howe – KA9WRL
16. Jim Albrinck – K9QLP

I hope I have not missed anyone.



## Thinking Ahead - Elections and Awards Banquet

De Ken Boston, W9GA

We are approaching the end of 2016, and I would like the membership to consider who within our group is deserving of recognition this year for various awards that ORC commonly gives out at our annual awards banquet, and at the meetings in early 2017.

Nominations for deserving Hams can be forwarded to me or any of the directors, who make the final determination as to recipients. Our main awards are for Ham of the year and Turkey of the year. These awards are for that individual who, in your opinion, helped ORC with its mission and initiatives during the past year (Ham of the year) and who made our club gatherings fun and enjoyable. (Turkey of the year) The Ham of the year could be someone who has received the award before, while the Turkey of the year is given to any individual only once in his or her lifetime.

There are several other awards that can be won by a member who has contributed to our club's enjoyment of the hobby and support for our programs. For instance, we have an award for the contester of the year, operator of the year, and technical project of the year. We give out an award for program of the year, and also for committee of the year. Several others are available, needing only some folks to provide nominations, along with a sentence or two as to why the individual(s) are deserving candidates.

A full list of the award categories offered can be found if you download the PDF found by clicking the link at the bottom of our website main page, directed to the 'President's Handbook'. They are also listed in our bylaws, which is a separate link.

At the award banquet held earlier in February of this year, we awarded several people who stood out in 2015, a list follows:

2015 Ham of the year;	Chuck	W9KR
2015 Turkey of the year	Gary	K9DJT
2015 Program of the year	Bill	W9MXQ
2015 Project of the year	Chuck	W9KR
2015 Committee of the year	Dave	N9UNR
2015 Presidents award	Ken	W9GA

Please check out the links on our page, and consider who YOU think deserves some recognition, and let the members on the board know who you would nominate.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO NOTE;

Nominations for a new slate of officers is also coming up pretty soon, and if you would like to serve, or know of a suitable candidate, we have need of new blood, and would like to hear from you. Your officer nominating committee consists of Chuck W9KR, Tom W9IPR and Ken W9GA. For 2017, offices are President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Repeater VP and Trustee. It is probably likely that there will be some incumbents who will seek to return for 2017, but new candidates are highly encouraged to step into the fold. Please consider in helping out in your club. The ORC has a large membership, and many active hams, who can really fit into the scheme of our operations and initiatives. Beside the officers, where are many committees which are also active, and can use YOUR help.

## Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2016

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary



Chuck Curran (W9KR), President, called the meeting to order at 1928. Introductions followed.

### Announcements:

Vic S. (WT9Q) installed a new tri-bander on his tower and will give a presentation on the project next month.

Tom R. (W9IPR) suggested the ORC compile a listing of topic experts, i.e. - a directory of who to ask about specific radio-related subjects.

Ray T. (W9KHH) received a package from the ARRL containing his 60-year membership pin and numerous W1AW QSL cards.

### Program:

Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR) presented on: QSL Cards – A Fun Tradition in a “Cutting Edge” Hobby.

### 50/50 Drawing:

No 50/50 drawing was held this month.

### Auction:

Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) conducted the auction and numerous items were sold.

**Officer Reports:**

Chuck Curran (W9KR), President – Just back from vacation, he saw lots of castles and churches with tall towers but no visible antennas...

Kevin Steers (K9VIN), 1st VP – No report.

David Carpenter Sr. (KC9REP), 2nd VP – No report.

Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY), Repeater VP – Lots of noise issues on 2m, almost sure after extensive troubleshooting that the antenna is bad – a substitute antenna will be tested to confirm if a replacement is required.

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary – There was a correction to the August minutes: Bill H. (KA9WRL) was incorrectly identified as Bill S. discussing the lighthouse event. The motion to accept the August minutes as corrected was made by Zach Y., seconded by Tom T., and carried without debate.

Dave Barrow (N9UNR), Treasurer – Motion to accept Treasurer's report was made by Dave B., seconded by Bill S. (W9MXQ), and carried without debate.

**Committee Reports:**

Tom R. (W9IPR) reports that the number of volunteers signed up to help with the Fall Swapfest is “disturbing” at only five members. As a revenue-generating event for ORC it is important for club members to actively participate. The Fall Swapfest needs a minimum of 15 volunteers to operate smoothly. Don't be a passive component – get involved!

Bill H. (KA9WRL) reports the Lighthouse Event went very well, with lots of good help and decent weather. Approximately 250 contacts were made during the casual event. There will be a report in the Sept. newsletter.

**Old Business:**

Dave B. asks that if anyone has need of club membership forms they see him after a meeting.

**New Business:**

HRO has asked if the ORC would like to participate in a special event station during their October Grand Opening weekends. It is a good promotion for the club – Contact Tom T. (KC9ONY) for more information and keep an eye on the remailer.

**Adjournment:**

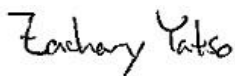
Stan K. (WB9RQR) made the motion to adjourn at 2115. The motion was seconded by Nels H. (WA9JOB) and the motion carried.

**Attendance:**

There were 34 members present and 2 guests.

A copy of the attendance sheet is available upon request in PDF format. Please contact Zach Yatso via email at: kc9znr@arrl.net for a copy.

Respectfully submitted,



Zachary Yatso, KC9ZNR  
Secretary



## AGENDA

*October 12th, 2016*

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Introductions. Chuck Curran, W9KR
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, upcoming events, etc.,
4. Program: Vic Shier, WT9Q, on Installing a Used Tri-bander.
5. 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
6. Fellowship Break
7. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
8. Presidents Report – Chuck Curran, W9KR
9. 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report – Kevin Steers, K9VIN
10. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – David Carpenter, Sr. KC9REP
11. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY
12. Minutes - Zach Yatso, KC9ZNR
13. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow, N9UNR
14. Committee reports.
  - Scholarship:
  - Fall Swapfest:
  - Other:
15. OLD BUSINESS
16. NEW BUSINESS
17. Adjournment

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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, October 12<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting