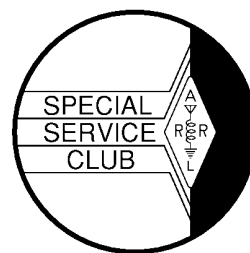




AMATEUR RADIO

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

Volume XXIV

November 2005

Number 11

The Prez Sez

By Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR))

With the travel, raking of leaves and flu shot reaction there has not been much time for "hamming" this month. However, I did get my G5RV antenna lengthened to act as a half wave dipole on 160 meters and that will provide some fun this winter. I trimmed it using an MFJ analyzer and was quite surprised at how much I trimmed from the calculated lengths to attain resonance. Must be OK because it seems to work with a low SWR and good signal on 160 and several other bands.

Nels and I went to the Milwaukee Repeater Club swapfest at Waukesha after breakfast on the 29th and had a great time visiting and evaluating all the good stuff. Naturally I found some broken stuff that I needed so now those items will find their way onto my winter schedule or the meeting auction. Actually I was pretty pleased in that I got a 1:1 balun, a 1 to 300 MHz counter and an LCD computer display (less wall wart) and spent less than \$35. I just missed a Drake antenna tuner for \$15 but I was third in line. . You should have been there. It was a good time.

The "05" ORC year is winding down and I am pleased with the results. We have had good meeting programs and auctions and as a result, good attendance. We have also had good participation in our various events and that results from members volunteering to organize and chair them. The membership has shown a genuine interest in making things happen and that is a sign of a healthy organization.

One of our more active standing committees has been that of Public Relations with Naomi

and Mark Potash. We have been a feature story in 4 different papers and appeared on 2 TV stations. In addition, Mark had labels made to place on old ham radio magazines to leave in the offices of the various professionals and barber shops.

For the first time we have created a youth committee and a membership committee – with time these could be the committees that sustain the club.

We again made a great showing at field day and still managed to have a good time – it was again a great club event as were the corn roast and PEP.

Gene again did a great job with the ORC Swapfest so we have operating capital and Ed Rate continues managing the sale of donations to support and grow our scholarship fund. Our financial condition is sound with money in the bank.

We have made a few changes to our by-laws creating term limits and an additional vice president to better assure reduced individual workload and continuance of the organization. For the first time we are now working on an annual budget and have documented such things as to how elections are to be run and the performance of an annual club audit.

I feel it has been a fun and successful year. Thanks to all of you who have made it happen.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

The 2005 Field Day results are in, and OZRAC has again piled up some bragging rights:

Number 1 in the 5A category in the Central Division (9 total entries)

Number 3 in the 5A category nationwide (72 total entries)

Number 12 in all low power transmitter categories nationwide (1,884 total entries)

That's the good news, and it's impressive. Here's the bad news. We had 544 fewer contacts this year than in 2004, and this dropped us from #2 to #3 in our category nationwide. K1R, a new entry in the category, beat us by about 1000 contacts. So we have some work to do if we are to ever take top honors. But it can be done. I challenge the FD committee members to come up with new ideas to make it happen.

The November Sweepstakes CW contest will be history by the time most of you receive the newsletter, but I ask those of you who worked it to mark the Society of Midwest Contesters as your club when you submit your logs, to help bring the SS Unlimited championship back to the Midwest. And please, even you CW people, spend some time in the SSB Sweepstakes on Nov. 19. I will if you will (Naw, I'll do it anyway.)

Coming up in Nov.:

Nov. 5-7 ARRL Nov. Sweepstakes CW—Rules at www.arrl.org/rules/2005/novss.html

Nov. 19-21 ARRL Nov. Sweepstakes SSB—Rules same as above.

Nov. 26-27 CQ World Wide DX Contest—CW—Rules in Oct. QST, page 101

Have fun contesting.

Bob, W9LO

Tips,Tails & Tools

While wandering around in a daze on the Internet recently, I came upon a treasure of information at a web site. The site's name is 101science.com. This is a science-based site covering nearly all areas that can be called science. They have basic electronics courses

available for free along with some fantastic technical ham radio information for all aspects of the hobby. I should warn you that this site is very intense, and you almost certainly need a high-speed connection, because even with road-runner, the pages take a bit of time to load. Dial up connections will be painfully slow on this site. Regards, BOB GORJANCE (W5CFB)

Wanted

I am looking for a code practice oscillator for my elderly (84) father-in-law. He has been studying for a technician license but is interested in the code. If anyone has such an animal for sale, please let me know. Thanks, Paul KD9FM

I need a 12 volt 2-amp wall wort to power an LCD PC display. Thanks, Tom W9IPR

General Class Upgrade Class

The Justice Center is reserved each Sat morning from Nov 12 through Dec 17 for upgrade training to General. We will have 6 training sessions and cover the 10 chapters in the ARRL General Class License Manual. The manual is available at AES for \$16.95 Students should review and start studying the manual prior to the class sessions.

The class content is in "power point" and will follow the manual and is as follows:

Nov. 12 - 1-1 Commission Rules 2-1 Operating Procedures

Nov. 19 - 3-1 Radio-Wave Propagation 4-1 Amateur Radio Practice

Nov. 26 - 5-1 Electrical Principles 6-1 Circuit Components

Dec. 3 - 7-1 Practical Circuits 8-1 Signals and Emissions

Dec. 10 - 9-1 Antennas and Feed Lines 10-1 RF Safety

Dec. 17 - Review and Testing

If you or a friend are interested in taking the class for the purpose of an upgrade from Tech-

nician to General or as a review or if you wish to be an instructor, please contact me at 262-377-6945 or e-mail me at teruhmann@sbcglobal.net

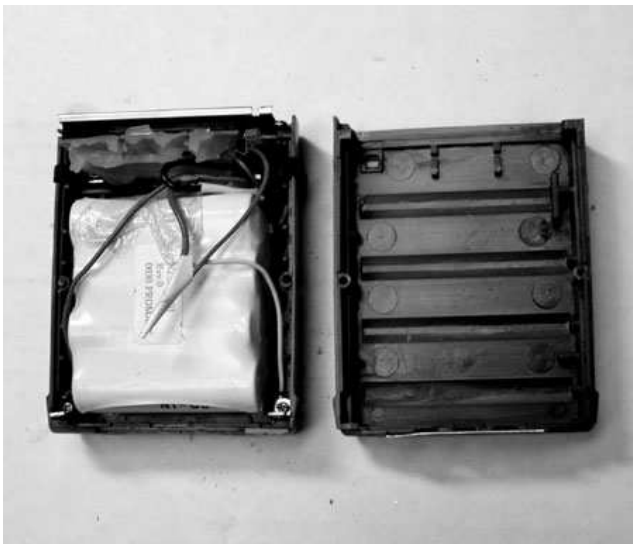
To date the following are enrolled:

Dave Barrow – N9UNR
Nancy Stecker – KC9FZK
Mark Potash – KC9GST
Zack Mackay – KC9HEJ
Mike Yuhas – KC9GDV

Rebuilding the HT Battery Pack

De: Tom Ruhlmann

You too can do it. If the pack is dead what's the difference, give it a try. With the older Radio Shack / ICOM pack it is really a snap because there are simply 4 screws to be removed to expose the battery pack.



This Radio Shack / ICOM battery pack is easily opened to expose the battery pack. The pack consisted of 7 each "AA" Ni-Cd cells with an included temperature sensor



The replacement pack is shown on the right and it was exactly the configuration of the original. Lucky break in this case



After unsoldering the original pack and installing the replacement pack (and temperature sensor) the case is easily reassembled.

I must admit, this is the easiest of the packs that I have repaired. On my NARCO aviation HT I had to use my Drimmel saw to open the case and then it was a real squeeze getting the replacement cells in the case. The case had to be clamped closed and then epoxied.

One of the greater challenges is soldering wires to the stainless steel cases. I finally used acid core solder – anyone have a better suggestion?

Elections

It's that time of year again. Elections will be at the December 14th meeting. Under new business there will be an election for each position thus allowing for nominations from the floor. However, don't wait until then if you are interested in serving as a club officer. Call a member of the nominating committee and volunteer. The committee this year is composed of Vic Shier (KB9UKE), Kent Christiansen (N9WH) and Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR).

Silent Key

De: Gregg R. Lengling, W9DHI

I regret to inform the readers that John Samuel Le Feber, W9VAT, passed away on October 28th, 2005 at the young age of 80. A lot of old time hams will remember John (especially those on 160 meters), including the early members of the 146.91 repeater which John helped put together with his expertise as an electronics rep. He will be greatly missed. ,

The Repeater & Power

As many of you know, we have been operating the 146.97 repeater with the solid state amplifier for about a year now. At the last meeting, it was decided to purchase the replacement tubes for the trusty Micor amplifier. Dick Scarvaci, K9CAN, ordered and installed the tubes, and put the amplifier back in service. We are now operating back at our coordinated power level! Thanks, Dick.

At this point, the repeater is operating with all five receive sites in operation. The sixth, to be in Grafton, will be on line very soon. These receive sites augment the receive capability of the system, and of course we all listen to the voted receivers through the transmitting system at the repeater site.

This brings up an interesting situation of perception! If we users hear the repeater strongly, like it normally is, the tendency to reduce the power

on our transceivers occurs. Most mobile radios operate at a maximum of 50 Watts. Handheld radios often do no more than 4 to 5 Watts.

I often hear people say they are running low power. Mobile low power is usually about 5 Watts, and handhelds can be in the milliwatt range. Our transmitter has an effective radiated power of 400 Watts! That is a large imbalance!

If you know you are very close to a remote receive site, those levels can be just fine. What usually happens is, the mobile, or handheld, radio moves out of close proximity of a receive site, and the repeater doesn't get a quality signal. The point is, the user still hears the other signals just fine! He's listening to a 400 W. E.R.P. transmitter.

A while back, we were just running the exciter radio because the amplifier had failed and we didn't have the backup amplifier. That radio puts out 15 Watts. Almost half of that power is lost in the duplexers, and we probably had perhaps 30-Watts effective radiated power. Curiously, everyone ran high power on their radios, because they heard the repeater weaker than normal! Everyone tended to sound good!

The FCC Rules call for the minimum power to be used to maintain a contact. They don't expect you to reduce power to a level that provides difficulty for others to receive your signal. A reasonable power level for mobiles seems to be around 25 W. unless you are on the far reaches of the system. The remote receive sites enable better handheld coverage, but for most handheld situations, the maximum power out will give more solid copy through the system.

All of this is to ask you to not get carried away with an effort to access the system with the lowest power possible. It is much better to be heard without causing listener fatigue by the people you are communicating with!

73, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB

Upcoming Events

Nov. 5/6 – CERT Training at Justice Center
Nov. 5/6 – ARRL CW Sweepstakes
Nov. 9 – Membership meeting
Nov. 12 – General Class Upgrade Training starts at the Justice Center – Call Tom W9IPR to enroll
Nov. 19/21 – ARRL Phone Sweepstakes
Nov. 26 – Grafton Christmas Parade
Nov. 26/27 – CQ World Wide CW DX Contest

Don't forget the regular Tuesday ORC net and the Sunday night railroad net on "91".

Club Static

Hello everyone. I received a call this afternoon from Mike Donohue of the Grafton Chamber of Commerce asking for our help again this year on the Grafton Christmas Parade. The parade is scheduled for 11 AM, Saturday, November 26 (Saturday after Thanksgiving). They will need 6 or 7 operators and the Cedarburg Emergency Government Commo Van. Operators will need to report at St. Paul's Lutheran Church parking lot at 9:15 AM Saturday morning the 26th to meet your assigned person. More details at the November meeting. Mark the date on the calendar now if you plan to participate. 73 de Jim K9QLP. So far we have Cindy, KA9PZG; Bernie, AA9CI; Nels, WA9JOB; and myself

Jim Albrinck (K9QLP)

And The Winner IS

One of our neighbors has won the October QST plaque award. It is George R. Steber, WB9LVI 9957 North River Road Mequon, WI 53092-5229. If you know George bring him to our November meeting.

Party Time

After a short discussion at the October meeting ... the 2006 Post Everything Party date is set for Saturday, March 11th !!!

We need some assistance on running this year's event. Give Leon (W9GCF) a call to volunteer.

Just Another Shack

De Steve Stevens (K9DXT)

Our featured member this month is Jim Russell (W9JRX)). Jim is a life long resident of Port Washington attending and graduating from both the local grade and high schools. After high school Jim entered the Navy and served a four-year hitch as a Machinist mate. The training he received while in the Navy led him to his current job with Wisconsin Electric where he has been employed for 32 years as a heavy equipment operator.



Jim (W9JRX) relaxes at his shack with his trusty ICOM to his right

His other interests beside ham radio include a model train layout, which he resurrected from his mother's attic, and is reworking and expanding the layout. As you look around the basement area you notice several model race cars and a nice collection of racing related photos he is also interested in photography and plays trumpet in the Lake Shore Symphonic Band.

Jim's interest in amateur radio goes back to his days in high school when he used to listen to Jim Sharbuno (WI9M) when they were in high

school together. Jim promised himself that he would get his ticket sometime. So 2 years ago he kept that promise to himself after he had been to a field day and he now has his general class ticket and is working for the extra. Jim uses the hobby to get away from Wisconsin. He figures he has had enough experiences that he can talk to most people. His farthest QSO has been to Slavina and most interesting individual was an older gentleman who had served on an aircraft carrier in the Second World War that was sunk by the Japanese.

Jim's equipment consists of an Icom IC718 Transceiver for main and piggybacks an Icom R-75 comm. receiver to it. Antennas consist of a G5RV and a Titan gap vertical operating at 100 watts.

Jim's philosophy is to get as much as he can for as little as possible. I found him to be an interesting interview. He is definitely an individual you would like to know better.

November 9th Meeting



So whose trailer of emergency supplies is this and where exactly did they go? Come to the meeting Nov. 9th and hear about Katrina from a local ham's point of view.

Minutes—October 12th, 2005

De Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK

Meeting called to order at 7:33 P.M. by Vice President Leon Rediske K9GCF in the President's absence.

Introductions: Members in attendance gave their name and call sign while guests introduced themselves.

Announcements, Etc.:

Leon K9GCF has a large list of equipment from a deceased ham. Proceeds from the sale of the equipment will be split between the ORC and the Scholarship Fund. Leon will confer with Ed AA9W, to arrange for the sale.

Ted N9LLT climbed Fred W9QMD's tower, lubricated it and found that no other repairs were needed.

Herb WA9UVK thought he might need repairs done to free his antenna but the offending tree came down in a storm and solved the problem.

JOTA will be held the weekend of Oct 15, 2005.

Kyle N4NSS has created a website for a Merit Badge for Scouts.

Dave N9UNR will be present at an Eagle Scout Badge awards ceremony in recognition for work done with the Inter-Urban Station in Cedarburg.

Nels WA9JOB said the December QST would have Field Day results, don't forget to check it when you receive your copy.

Tom AA9XK presented several possible dates for the 2006 Post Everything Party to be held at the American Legion Post in Cedarburg. Members attending the October meeting selected March 11, 2006.

Program: Maintaining your Lead Acid Battery by Ray W9BUJ. The average life of the lead acid battery is supposed to be 5 to 6 years. Unfortunately, most do not last that long because of a process called sulfation. Ray displayed products used for checking and restoring life to batteries, along with other literature and guidelines.

Fellowship Break:

Auction: by Stan WB9RQR.

Business Meeting: The minutes were accepted as printed in the ORC Newsletter. The treasurer's report was accepted as printed on handouts placed on tables.

Repeater Report: Nels WA9JOB explained the 97 repeater had broken. The power supply that had been repaired had failed again. A replacement power supply was installed, and the repeater is operating normally. The 220 repeater is being fine-tuned by Dick K9CAN, and the 440MHz unit at KK and LL is working fine with little usage. The Micor amplifier has been down for the past year and it was agreed by membership that new tubes should be purchased to repair it.

OZARES: Stan WB9RQR reported that the SET went well and reminded us of the CERT course being offered on November 5 and 6, 2005.

Committee Reports:

Swapfest Committee: Ray W9BUJ reported on the results of a meeting of the Swapfest Committee. Areas under discussion included food, seminars, having a major prize, and the possibility of second swapfest to be held outdoors. A new brochure is planned with publicity a high priority. A big round of applause was given to Gene KB9VJP for the years of hard work he has given to the Swapfest. The committee is continuing to look for more ideas.

Old Business: None.

New Business: A question was raised about our assistance with the Christmas Parade. No one has contacted the club at this time

Attendance: Stan WB9RQR, Nancy KC9FZK, Bernie AA9CI, Jim K9QLP, Gary WI9M, Bob WQ9N, Leon K9GCF, Herb WA9UVK, Bob W9LO, Ray W9BUJ, Ed AA9WW, Gary W9XT, Kyle N4NSS, Ray W9KHH, Muhammad KC9CPC, Gabe WI9GC, Dave N9UNR, Nels WA9JOB, Ted KB9RLI, Wil KB9HHR, Ron W9BCK, Mike KC9GDV, Mark AB9CD, Gene KB9VJP, Tom AA9XK, Julia KB9WBQ, Paul KD9FM and guests Len White and Tom Dorsey.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Nancy KC9FZK Secretary

AGENDA

November 9th, 2005

1. Call to order – Tom (W9IPR)
 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 – Tom (AA9XK).
 9. Repeater report – Nels (WA9JOB)
-
10. OZARES report – Jon (KB9RHZ).
 11. Committee reports.
 - Membership –
 - Public Relations –
 - Youth Program –
 - Swapmeet -
 - Post Everything Party -
 12. OLD BUSINESS
 13. NEW BUSINESS.
 14. 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, November 9th

7:30 PM