



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

April, 2010

Number 4

From the President

De Bill Howe II (KA9WRL)

Amateur Radio . . . Dead?

Only a few years ago, blogs listed Ham Radio alongside 35 mm film and VHS tape as technologies slated to disappear. They were wrong.

Nearly 700,000 Americans have Ham Radio licenses — up 60 percent from 1981, a generation ago, and the number is growing.

Ham Radio will never have the sex appeal of the iPhone (or the newly-released i-Pad), but it does have a certain nerd appeal.

If it creates its own experience, that's really what's key here. If it just emulates an experience that you can get online, it's not going to grow.

Until recently, Ham Radio was declining as older operators died. Then the FCC phased out the Morse code test that many saw as a stumbling block to getting a license. Last year more than 30,000 new applicants signed up to become Ham Radio operators.

We like to tell non-Hams and newcomers that with Amateur Radio you can talk to new people of all ages and races all over the world. It's just amazing what a little radio can do. Because no matter where you're at, if you have the right stuff and the right power you can talk to anyone.

Even the most die-hard Hams concede that Amateur Radio will never be a mainstream

hobby. With smart phones and other devices, people are more plugged in to the Internet than before. But people are still discovering the joy of communicating with a technology that's existed for nearly a century.

Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

The WISCONSIN QSO PARTY is history. Band conditions were good and scores were high. W9XT led the ORC entrants with a score about 20,000 points higher than last year's winner, but unfortunately for our side, another station in the state had a higher score. Overall it was a fun contest, but a question being asked by of bunch of people was "where the heck were the Canadians". I worked only one, and didn't hear any others. We did well, considering that we had only 9 entries, but not well enough to win the club plaque. My guess is that we'll be in the top 10 in the club competition. Here are the reported scores of club members who participated in the contest:

	CW Q's	PH Q's	MULT.	SCORE
W9XT	399	23	109	150,583.5
W9LO	409		74	90,798
N9FH	161	117	78	51,363
WI9M	112	59	66	18,678
W9VBQ	85		41	13,940 QRP
KC9DQK	119		44	7,854
K9QLP	71		42	4,473
W9KHH	43	5	29	3,958
AA9WP	30		25	<u>3,000</u> QRP
Total				344,647.5

Thanks to all who participated. Now it's time to start thinking about Field Day.

Bob, W9LO

W9RYA, Vern Teske – SK

LuVerne D. Teske (W9RYA) passed away March 22, 2010 of long term cardiac problems.



Vern is shown here as he participated in the Presidents Roundtable at the ORC May swapfest in 2007.

Vern was 88 and originally hailed from Antigo WI. He earned his original FCC license in 1947 and while a resident of Grafton he was one of the original founders of the Ozaukee Radio Club.

Upon moving from Grafton to Oak Creek he founded the South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club and continued as their President for 42 years. He was a driving force in area amateur radio having founded the SMARC outdoor Swapfest and scholarship fund and serving in various offices of the GM Firebird ARC and the Chapter 55 of the Quarter Century Club.

Vern was well known at area swapfests as a reliable vendor in the black hat and became known as the "Oak Creek Bandit" due to his shrewd negotiating skills related to amateur radio equipment.

Vern was well respected for his technical skills and good humor at both GM Delco from which he retired in 1987 and MATC where he taught electronics in night school.

Vern was a friend and tutor to many and a prominent figure in the local amateur radio community. He will be missed.

ORC 2009 Awards

De Mic Yuhas, AB9ON

At the Post Everything Party last week it was my pleasure to present ORC awards to a few of our deserving members. Please join me in congratulating. ..

- Chuck Curran, W9POU, recipient of Meeting Program of the Year award, in recognition of the excellent overview of tesla coils as the club's meeting program of December 2009.

- Ed Rate, AA9W, recipient of the Club Service Award, in recognition of efforts as Club Trustee to ensure the club's continued health through asset acquisition and sales, and oversight of the club's scholarship fund.

- Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, recipient of the Ham of the Year award, for contributing to the Ozaukee Radio Club in many ways. Stan is gratefully recognized by the membership as being a key player in the success of the group.

Six additional awards (including the coveted Turkey of the Year award) were not presented, because those being honored were not in attendance. Who were these people, you ask? I can't tell you now, but you can find out when we attempt to present the remaining awards at the April ORC membership meeting, Wednesday April 14.

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Where is Amateur Radio going today?

De Nels Harvey (WA9JOB)

When I was first licensed in 1963, it was as a Novice. Of course, money was in short supply as the head of a young family. I remember cobbling together a National NC57 receiver and a Johnson Challenger transmitter, hooking it up to a dipole antenna strung between the house and garage. Along with Larry, WA9JMO, then WN9JMO, we put the WN9JOB station on the air.

It was September, and the radio setup was in my garage. It didn't take long to become discouraged because the National radio had poor selectivity and stability, the Challenger transmitter was rock bound, and the nights turned cold. My dreams of becoming a "Big time Radio Amateur" went on hold.

In 1964, I upgraded to the Technician level, put the radios in my basement, and went on Six Meters. A TV rotor and a four element Six Meter beam got great results because of great sunspot activity. It was AM, and crystal bound on 50.4 MHz. The method of operation was to call CQ, and finish the call by saying "tuning".

That setup languished as the propagation waned, and in the meantime I went back to school, and worked my way into Broadcasting. In 1970, Two Meter FM was becoming available with new radios on the market. Soon, repeaters were established, and my activity on the air had increased to a new high level.

Today, all a person needs to do is study a book for a while, and remember question and answers, pass a 35 question test, and buy a small radio to get on the air. Yes, many people progress through the upgrade tests to the top level. Oh, and you don't need to learn what those beeps are saying any more! While some people treat with respect the privileges they have obtained, I see many others who lose interest after the novelty wears off and disappear from the airwaves.

Today, cell phones, the Internet and computers are all competing for our time. Interest in pursuing those rare contacts on Twenty Meters is less interesting than simply going to Echo link. Programs like Skype, and telephone service like Vonage and free long distance on cell phones, are successfully competing for our time, putting Amateur Radio on the back burner of the priority list. Interest in nets and competitions also is dropping off. Events no longer want Amateur Radio services because the cell phone is available to everyone. Repeater activity is notably less, and interesting conversations are no longer enjoyed by others.

I've seen great swings of interest since those days where I was shivering out in the garage, seeking the magic of Amateur Radio. Somehow, those magic days and exciting contacts are now ho hum and boring. Too many of us have moved away from great interest in this wonderful hobby, and we forget the enjoyment of our first experiences.

Where is Amateur Radio going today?

For Sale, Trade or ?

Hammarlund Model HQ-180A HF Receiver. It has been repaired re-tubed, realigned, and the clock has been fixed! This is the best model of that series and is now in top condition. The receiver is in near pristine condition and is a collector's model. We will be taking it to Dayton for sale at \$325 eBay price but is available for club members at \$300 firm. Contact Ed Rate AA9W for viewing. This receiver is Scholarship Fund property.

Upcoming Events

April 14 – ORC Meeting
May 1st - ORC Hamfest
May 2nd - Sandwich, IL Hamfest
May 8th - ORC/LeFrog Radio Merit Badge Seminar (Pioneer Village)
May 12th – ORC meeting
May 14th thru 16th - Dayton Hamvention
June 6th - Princeton, IL Hamfest

June 9th – ORC meeting

June 12th thru Monday, June 14th - ARRL VHF QSO Party

June 19th - "Tour de Cure" Bike Ride (ORC/LeFrog Radio Support)

June 20th - Wheaton, IL Hamfest

June 26th - ARRL Field Day

“Dim Light Tester”

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

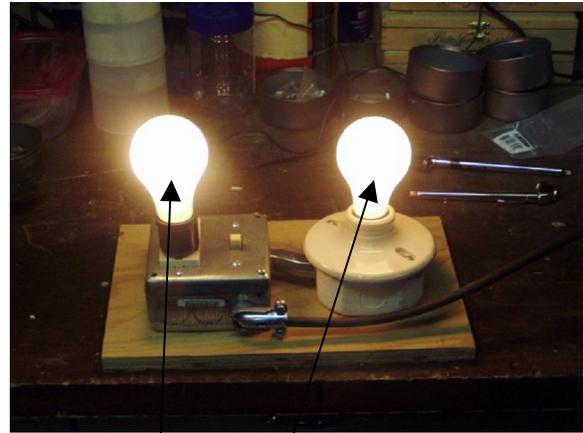
There is always a certain risk when “plugging in” an old radio that it may have a shorted power transformer, dried electrolytic filter capacitors or other failure modes which may result in a high current draw, “hot” chassis or blown fuses.

If you have a Variac it is very useful to slowly increase the applied voltage and separately monitor the AC current being drawn. However, a Variac can be relatively expensive and they are not readily available, even at local swap-fests.

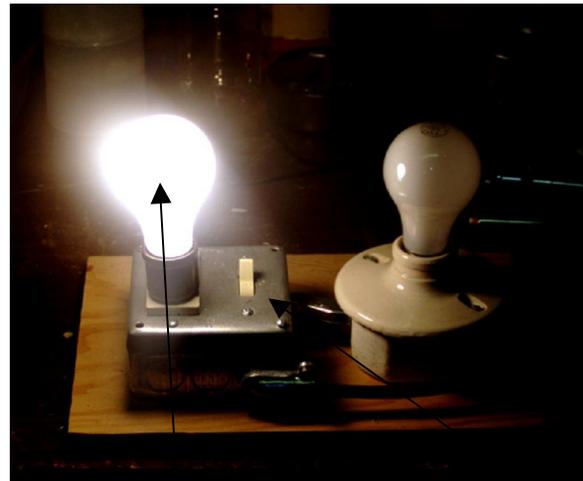


Another approach is to build and use a so called “dim light” tester. The parts are readily available in many junk boxes or at the local hardware store at small expense.

The basic “dim light” tester is simply an incandescent lamp in series with the load. In this configuration if the load is shorted the lamp will experience full line voltage and glow brightly but limit the current to that normally drawn by the bulb at full voltage. If the load is operating normally the voltage will be divided between the load and the “dim light” and neither will glow brightly.



When the load (left hand bulb) is operating normally the test lamp in series with the load will glow dimly.



This “dim light” tester includes a switch across the “dim light” so that once the load is determined to not be “shorted” but operating normally the “dim light” can be “bypassed” in the circuit and full voltage applied to the load.

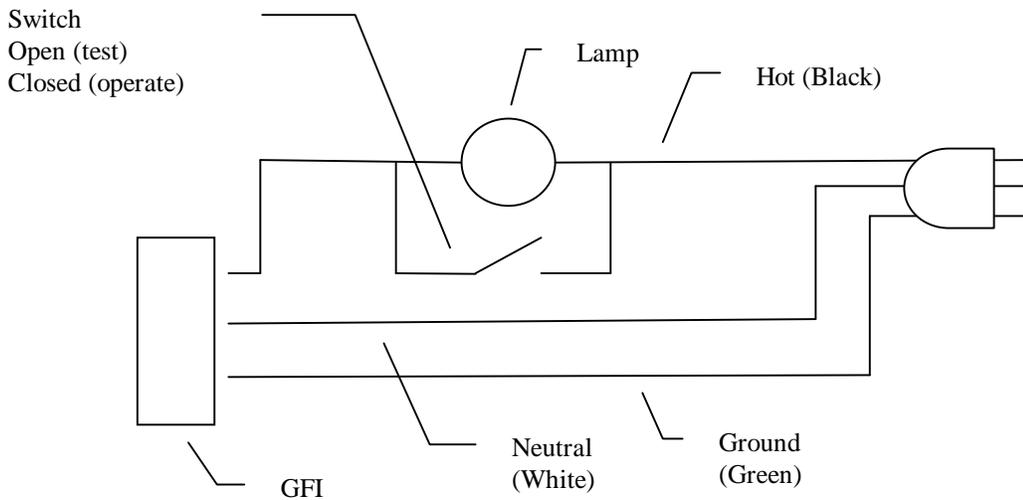
The “dim light” tester shown includes a GFI outlet, a switch to by-pass the “dim light” and a 3 wire grounded line cord and plug as noted in the schematic.



Note that when this restored vintage receiver is plugged in to the GFI receptacle of the “dim lamp” tester the receiver lamps and test lamp glows dim indicating the line voltage is being divided between the receiver and the “dim lamp”.



Once it is determined the suspect load has no short to chassis or other fault drawing high current the test switch can be turned “ON”, shorting out the “dim lamp” and applying full voltage to the load being tested.



Perhaps if you build this simple “dim lamp” tester you will be much more comfortable the next time you “plug in” that vintage radio or power supply.

More information and applications for the “dim lamp” tester can be found by running a “dim lamp” search on the internet.

Minutes– Feb. 10th, 2010

De Patrick Sullivan (KC9LRK)

Bill Howe, KA9WRL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Introduction of all present followed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bob Truscott's (W9LO) wife, Jean, was hospitalized for a suspected heart attack on March 9th. She is in stable condition and expected to return home soon.

J.J. Heber from the American Diabetes Association asked the members of the ORC for communication support for the "Tour De Cure". The "Tour De Cure" is a fund raising bike ride for the American Diabetes Association. The "Tour De Cure" will be on June 19, 2010 and is in the Grafton Oostburg Area. A minimum of 14 Ham radio operators will be needed. This event runs from 7:00 am until 1:00pm, volunteers will need to be in place before the event starts. Ham radio operators receive a free T-shirt and meals will be provided. To sign up, please contact J.J. Heber.

J.J. Heber
American Diabetes Association Coordinator
(414) 778-5500 ext. 6514
jheber@diabetes.org
website: <http://www.diabetes.org>

Due to a 4 way and 3 way tie for the Ham and Turkey of the year, Mike Yuhas AB9ON initiated a revote. "A puff of white smoke" indicated that the Ham and Turkey have been selected.

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR showed a 40-10m or higher tuner that he had constructed. Either SBC or Ultimate trans-match tuning methods could be selected. The tuner is long wire and coaxial compatible.

PROGRAM: none

50/50 RAFFLE RESULTS: none

AUCTION

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR and Ed Rate, AA9W ran the auction. Some of the items acquired by bidders included the before mentioned tuner, an 8 port 10/100 networking switch, 2 antennas that could be used for whatever the bidder wanted to use them for, an enclosure with a working hard drive in side and leather pouch for the enclosure, two USB cameras, a joystick, two 8 ohm speakers, head phones with mic, RF detector, a gas pump clock and a

telephone dialer.

MINUTES:

Minutes for the Feb 10, 2010 meeting were accepted. David Barrow, N9UNR motioned to accept as written, and Mike Yuhas, AB9ON seconded the motion. 100% vote to accept them followed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

David Barrow, N9UNR, motioned to accept the treasurer's report subject to review. The treasurer's report was presented by Nels Harvey, WA9JOB. Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK seconded the motion and it was followed by a 100% vote in favor.

REPEATER REPORT:

Mark Tellier, AB9CD, indicated that the repeaters are working.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Post Everything party will be held on Friday March 26th.

The May 1, 2010 Swapfest is all set to go and will be held at Circle-B Recreation Center on Hwy 60. The event is listed on the ARRL web site and many brochures have already been circulated at other Ham Fests in the region.

There will be opportunities to volunteer to work at the May Swapfest at the April ORC meeting

The Corn Roast and Lighthouse events will be held on August 21, 2010 in Upper Lake Park in Port Washington.

The September ORC Swapfest will be held on September 11th.

The AES "Superfest" will be held on April 9th and 10th, 2010 at the AES building on 5710 West Good Hope Road in Milwaukee.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR motioned for adjournment, it was seconded by Kent Christiansen, N9WH and a 100% vote

in favor followed.

MEMBERS ATTENDING TONIGHT'S MEETING:

Ken Boston, W9GA, Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK , John Thielen, WA9KNY, Chuck Curran, W9POU, Ray Totzke, W9KHH, Mark Tellier, AB9CD, Mark Fielkow, KB9XE, Todd Fast, N9DRY, Dave Barrow, N9UNR, Michael Eibs, KC9QNN, Mike Yuhas, AB9ON, Kent Christiansen, N9WH, Ed Rate, AA9W, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, Tom Murtaugh, W9VBQ, Bill Howe, KA9WRL, Patrick Sullivan, KC9LRK

AGENDA

April 14, 2010

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 (WA0JOB).
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9. Repeater report – Mark Tellier (AB9CD)
 10. Committee reports.
May 1 - Swapfest -
PEP –
Sept Swapfest –
Public Service -
Other -
 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, March 10th

7:30 PM