



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.



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Web site: www.ozaukeeradioclub.org Facebook: facebook.com/orcwi

Volume XXXIII

December, 2015

Number 12

From the President

de Chuck Curran, W9KR



I was able to attend the December 2, 2015 Town of Cedarburg Board meeting, with the goal being to find out what the status of our Field Day site application was going to be. When I arrived, I met with Jim Culotta the Town of Cedarburg Administrator. Jim introduced me to Dave Valentine, the Town of Cedarburg Chairman. When he understood why I was present, Dave indicated that there were three meetings taking place that evening and it would be at least one hour or more before they got to the topic ORC was interested in.

OK, I Thanked him for that bit of information and said I would return a bit later. 50 minutes later I got back to the meeting and everyone was leaving, the meeting was over!

Jim Culotta quickly came up and provided the history of what had taken place. The motion to allow overnight camping at the Pleasant Valley Park was tabled. They decided to turn it over to the Parks & Recreation committee for review. That was supposed to have already taken place on November 25th, but apparently it did not. Jim Culotta explained that the motion would be acted on at either the January or February Board meeting. The snag here is that when the original conversation took place, no comment was made about needing additional approvals or actions. I have an action plan that I will bring up this December 9th at our meeting. Since they could decide either yes or no at their future meeting, we need an alternative for our Field Day site. It will be reviewed on the 9th.

As always I have an on-going project! The last week I have been working on a newly acquired Collins KWM2-A, another vacuum tube transceiver. Got to a point where I found the original relays were not being actuated. However, I also got a brand new relay replacement kit made by Collins, for the radio. The kit is missing the relay socket mounting bracket, so I drew up an exact replacement on AutoCad and have printed out a copy I will be gluing onto a sheet of aluminum, then nibbling out the areas required. Just have to wait for the nibbling tool to arrive!

73's
Chuck W9KR

DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



Now that we are finally finished eating Thanksgiving left over's and starting to think about the upcoming holidays, we might not be thinking too much about radio. Well, there is a lot going on in December!

Before going over what is going to happen, let's take a look at where we are propagation wise. We are certainly on the downward slope on sun spots. The Solar Flux level has been around 100. That is not good news for 10 and 12 Meter fans.

The CQWW CW contest was the Thanksgiving weekend. I decided to do a single band, 15 Meter effort and was on pretty much whenever the band was open. Actually 15 was pretty good, better than I expected. I made 711 contacts in 127 different countries. This was all with 100 watts. We had good propagation into Asia and I worked a lot of Chinese stations, probably more than I have ever worked in a single contest. China is a pretty tough path because it goes through the polar region and is a long one.

Stations that were multi-band or single band 10 Meters were pretty disappointed with 10 Meters. Many big stations only made a 100 contacts or so when they might have made over 500 a year or two ago. It is sad to see the sunspots disappear.

There are 3 more big contests left this year. All are single band contests and are good ones in my opinion. Despite spending quite a bit time on the air making over 2000 contacts in November in the SS and CQWW contests I plan on spending time in all of them.

The first one is the ARRL 160 Meter Contest. It starts Friday afternoon at 22:00 UTC (4:00 PM local) and ends at 16:00 UTC (10:00 AM local) on Sunday. This is a CW only contest.

We send a signal report and ARRL section (Wisconsin). DX stations just send a signal report. Multipliers are ARRL sections and DXCC countries. There are high, low and QRP power categories. You can enter packet assisted or unassisted categories in each power category. Full rules at <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>.

The next weekend is the ARRL contest at the other end of the HF spectrum, the 10 Meter Contest. This has been a favorite of mine for many years. Unfortunately conditions will be down this year if the CQWW weekend is any indication. We can still have fun. My rule of thumb is that if the Solar Flux is at 100 or more, and the A & K indices are low for a few days before, we can get some openings into Europe, something that makes this contest a lot of fun. Sporadic E propagation has a second peak this time of year and does not depend on sunspots. One year we had a good Es opening and I made over 200 contacts in a single hour, a personal best.

Another thing to remember is that Technician class hams can operate phone on 10 Meters. Antennas are small, and a dipole is only about 16' long. This is a good opportunity for Techs to give HF contesting a try.

The 10 Meter Contest starts at 00:00 UTC December 12 (6:00 PM Friday local time) and runs for 48 hours. You can only operate 36 hours though. There are a lot of operating classes to choose from. You can pick high, low and QRP power levels. Then chose if you want to operate CW, phone, or both (mixed mode). Then decide if you want to use packet or not. With all those classes, it means you have a good chance at winning some wall paper. A few weeks ago I got one for winning the Central Division and #7 USA for last year's effort.

Full rules are at <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>.

The final contest of the year is the Stew Perry Topband DX Challenge. As the name suggests, this is for 160 Meters. It starts on December 26 at 15:00 UTC (9:00 AM local) and runs for 24 hours. You can only operate 14 hours though. It is a CW only contest.

This contest is gaining a lot of popularity and is quickly becoming a favorite of mine. A lot has to do with the unique rules. First of all there are no multipliers. You just get QSO points. QSO points are based on distance. You get 1 point for a contact, plus an additional point for every 500 KM of distance between the stations. You send your grid square, EN53 or EN63 for most ORC members. The distance is based on the center points of the grids of the station making a contact. Don't worry about calculating the points. The logging programs will do that for you.

You get extra QSO points if you are running low power or QRP. Now, when a big gun works a QRP station, who is really doing the hard work? In many cases it is the big gun who carries the load on that contact, but only the QRP station gets the extra points.

That is different in the TBDC. If you contact a QRP or low power station, and they send in their log your QSO points for the contact get multiplied by 2 if he is low power and X4 if he is QRP. So, you really don't know how many points you made until well after the contest.

Last year I put up an inverted L for 160. I only got 10 radials installed by the start time. I had to give it a try. I ended up placing #6 in the world low power. I think a big part of this is being in a quiet location and good receive antennas. I worked a lot more QRP and low power stations than many of my competitors. Those extra points really add up. Rules are at <http://www.kkn.net/stew/stew.rules.txt>

December is usually a light month for DXpeditions and this year is no exception. There are no major ones this month. There are as usual a number of holiday style operations in December. Some people like to go to warmer locations for Christmas, and some hams bring along a radio. They play around when they have free time and it is hard to predict when they might be on. Stay tuned for January when I will discuss a very big DXpedition scheduled for the end of the month.

Have a good and safe time over the holidays, but find some time to get on the air.

The Computer Corner

214: Stay Away from Adobe

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
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wb9rqr@att.net



I have nothing against Adobe products – Acrobat Reader, Flash Player and others. Well, maybe I do in the sense that using them puts you at unreasonably high risk, and the company seems not to correct the errors that make their customers vulnerable to attacks of malware. Here are some facts.

According to a posting by Tim Weaver on the Majorgeeks website (majorgeeks.com), “99% of computers are vulnerable to exploit kits. Oracle Java, Adobe Reader and Adobe Flash Player is present on 99% of computers. That means that 99% of computer users are vulnerable to exploit kits (software vulnerabilities).”

You would think that Adobe would correct the software holes that make their products repeatedly so vulnerable to attack. However, they seem not to do so. I subscribe to a weekly posting by the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) that pinpoints holes in software from all companies as they are discovered. High vulnerabilities during two weeks in October 2015 for Adobe were 10 out of 51 and 56 out of 95. That is, of all the high vulnerabilities recorded by the NCCIC during those two weeks, Adobe accounted for about 20% and 59%, respectively. Way too high! Moreover, having read these weekly postings for well over 5 years, I can reflect that Adobe has shown high vulnerability for a majority of weeks.

So what is Stan really saying? Stay away from dangerous products, or run the risk of becoming hacked and/or infected with malware. Adobe Acrobat is used to read .pdf files, but there are many others out there that do just as good a job without the danger. A free, simple and efficient reader for this job is Sumatra PDF (downloadable from majorgeeks.com). If you insist on using Adobe Flash Player on your machine, be sure you take responsibility for making sure it is up-to-date with the latest version release. Java (not an Adobe product) is easy – just uninstall it and you are safe. It really is not needed in most cases, though Oracle will tell you otherwise. If you find you really do need it on occasion, install and use it, then quickly uninstall it.

Want to see what products are dangerous? Go to www.us-cert.gov and sign up for alerts, tips and other updates (at the bottom of the page). Keep informed and avoid danger!

Next month, I will cover a bit about Windows 10 spying and the simple way to thwart it. Happy computing!

Gerry Walker, KB9IMH, a former ORC member - SK



Dear Friends & Colleagues,

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of my father Gerald E. Walker on Sunday November 15th following complications from an auto-immune disease.

In recent months, Jerry had been experiencing problems with vision, swallowing and extreme fatigue. It was not until last week at St. Mary's Hospital that a provisional diagnosis of *Myasthenia Gravis* was given to account for his symptoms.

Most recently, Jerry's muscle weakness and compromised immunity became life-threatening. Regrettably, drug treatment and therapy proved ineffective in reversing the course of his condition.

Jerry entered the Lawlis Family Hospice at St Mary's and passed away peacefully Sunday afternoon.

My mother, Nina Walker, has planned a private family service for Friday November 20th in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

A public memorial service is being planned for early 2016 in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

Our family kindly requests that flowers and tributes honoring Jerry be postponed until the memorial service in 2016. Nina or I will communicate the details when they are available.

A formal obituary posting will appear in the local paper in the coming days.

Best Regards,

-Eddie Walker

ewalker@modernhtg.com

Operations Manager

Modern Heating & Air Conditioning

Obituary for Gerald Earl Walker

Gerald E. Walker

Gerald "Jerry" E. Walker, age 79, of Cedarburg, passed away on Sunday, November 15, 2015, following complications from an auto-immune disease.

Jerry was born in Milwaukee on June 15, 1936, son of Floyd E. Walker and Violet Collins Walker. In 1949 the Walkers purchased the Green Lake Hotel and relocated to Green Lake, WI. Jerry graduated from Green Lake High School in 1955 and joined the US Navy. He was honorably discharged in 1959 after three Mediterranean tours on the USS Randolph as a Radioman First Class.

He and Nina Gordon were married on December 19, 1959, at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Green Lake. They moved to Waukesha where Jerry was employed at Aqua-Chem and attended Marquette University.

In 1972, Jerry moved his family to Cedarburg to become Director of Purchases for Orion Corporation in Grafton. He retired after 30 years in that position.

Jerry was proud to be a member of the Peter Wollner American Legion Post 288 in Cedarburg, serving as Commander in 2010. He was Scout Master for Cedarburg Troop 830 BSA, a member of Cedarburg Lions Club, and served as an Ozaukee County Supervisor since 2000.

He loved playing sheepshead, woodcarving, cooking, gardening (2015 Mayor's Award), going to movies, volunteering and cheering for the Green Bay Packers.

Jerry is survived by his dear wife, Nina, of Cedarburg, and his sons, Matthew Walker of Waukesha, Philip (Jill) Walker and granddaughter Emma Ruth of Loudon, TN and Edmund (Kristin Lenaburg) Walker of St. Paul, MN. He is further survived by cousin-in-law Terry Mitter and extended Mitter family, many Walker relatives, and many great friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his baby sister Betty, in-laws Samuel and Beatrice Gordon and dear aunt and uncle Dolores and Edward Topolewski.

A private family service with military honors took place on Friday November 20, 2015, at Dartford Cemetery in Green Lake. The family requests tributes honoring Jerry be postponed until a celebration of Jerry's life takes place in early 2016 in Cedarburg.

Junk Box Product

De Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR



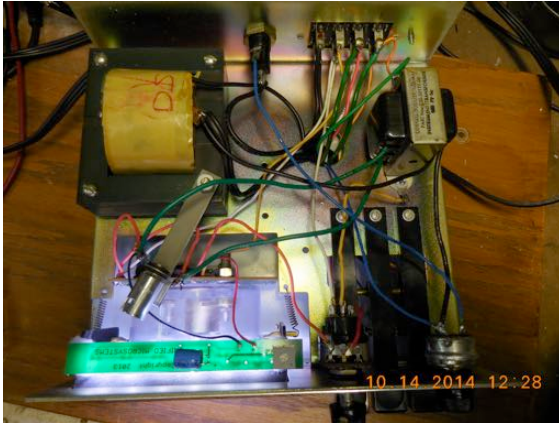
At one time I had a battery backup sump pump and it did in fact save my basement from flooding while I was on a trip. Eventually however, it outlived its usefulness and was committed to the junk box and I went to dual sump pumps and a backup generator.

Then I realized the power pack would make a great portable 12 VDC power pack. In the cover I installed a cable with Anderson power pole connectors and a cigar lighter plug (remember those?) to supply battery power. I also installed a switch on the bottom of the control

panel to turn ON the battery power to the external loads. I did not disturb the original circuitry so that I can still use it for a WAYNE DC sump pump and slow charge or maintain the battery with the "wall wart". However, it is now more useful because I can also use a larger charger or my solar panel for recharging and can power a variety of loads including my 12 VDC transceivers. Oh yea, the leather belt didn't fit any more.

On the Work Bench

De Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR



Ron Yokes, W9BCK, was clearing his garage and came up with a rotator and control of unknown condition that he acquired from a friend. I asked him if he would donate it to an amateur radio cause in Lakeland FL where I volunteer in the winter. We are erecting a tower and a donated beam there for the special event station at Sun-n-Fun and are attempting to start a youth radio club sponsored by the FL aerospace museum. He agreed and I proceeded to check out the control unit. While it did function, the original owner had replaced the 26 volt meter bulb with four 6 volt bulbs hay wired in series to backlight the meter. I recalled that Unified Microsystems (Gary Sutcliffe – W9XT) of the ORC had an LED back light replacement kit for meters he sold for \$13. I installed the kit, complete with several LED's and appropriate resistors, using the included "hook & loop" tape and connected the leads to the original lamp socket 26 VAC. It really works great and the brilliance is adjustable. I highly recommend the kit - simple, effective and cheap.

Then I opened the rotor because I knew it would need cleaning and new grease and because the position indicated was intermittent. That's right, the potentiometer in the rotor had an open but fortunately it was at near one end of the winding and I was able to solder a bridge between the winding and end contact. It is not perfectly accurate but is quite sufficient. Then a good cleaning of the ball bearings and races and an application of a light film of the white low temperature grease followed by a coat of gray paint and it looked and worked great. Now I need to locate the part of rotor that holds the mast in place and it will be complete. It was a great project and I learned a lot.

It inspired me to buy some parts from "Phil" and I overhauled two other rotors including replacement of the motor phase shift capacitor and addition of missing balls in the bearings. My only advice before taking a rotor apart is to do it within a cardboard box so as to catch all the balls that fall out of the bearing races.

Remember, you can't be sure how something works until you take it apart.



Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2015

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary



Chuck Curran (W9KR), President, called the meeting to order at 1923. Introductions followed.

Announcements:

Jim (K9QLP) announced that two members recently had strokes, Bernie (AA9CI) and Kent (N9WH); they are recovering.

Curt (N9CBS) is proud of his 13yo son, who made a couple of contacts during a recent special event and learned how to log.

Program:

Chuck described his misadventures building a high-power RF dummy load in the program RF Dummy Loads.

50/50 Drawing:

The 50/50 drawing was held by Kristian (KC9TFP) and the winning ticket was #5126.

Auction:

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

Officer Reports:

Chuck Curran (W9KR), President – No report.

Kevin Steers (K9VIN), 1st VP – The Hub At Cedar Creek is confirmed for the ORC Awards Banquet on Feb, 20, 2016.

John Strachota (W9FAD), 2nd VP – No report.

Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY), Repeater VP – No report.

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary – Motion to accept October minutes was made by Zach, seconded by Dave (N9UNR), and carried without debate.

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

Committee Reports:

Ken (W9GA) reports no new developments on Field Day 2016. Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve requires the city to pass an ordinance to allow overnight camping – stay tuned.

Bill reports that QSL cards from the Lighthouse Event are being sent and returned.

Old Business:

N/A.

New Business:

Ken reminded members that the Awards Banquet is coming up in Feb, and to start thinking about nominees for the various awards.

Adjournment:

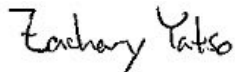
Stan (WB9RQR) made the motion to adjourn at 2030. The motion was seconded by Dave (N9UNR) and the motion carried.

Attendance:

There were 36 members present and no 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

December 9th, 2015

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:
5. 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
6. Fellowship Break
7. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
8. Presidents Report – Chuck Curran, W9KR

9. 1st VP Report – Kevin Steers, K9VIN
 10. 2nd VP Report – John Strachota, W9FAD
 11. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY
 12. Acceptance of Minutes : Zach Yatso, KC9ZNR
 13. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow, N9UNR
 14. Committee reports.
- Other:
15. OLD BUSINESS
 16. NEW BUSINESS
 17. Adjournment to ?

Return undeliverable copies to

The ORC Newsletter

465 Beechwood Drive
Cedarburg WI* 53012

First Class

Next ORC Meeting

Grafton Senior Citizens Center

1665 7th Avenue, Grafton
Wednesday , December 9th

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting