



# 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

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Number 4

## From the President

*de Kevin Steers (K9VIN)*



Welcome to Spring 2017! Well that is what my calendar told me. It still feels like Antenna weather to me, though.

With Dayton right around the corner, now is a fine time to do extra chores around the house, and the such, before gently reminding your spouse that you had hoped to continue this Amateur Radio Tradition. I started going to Dayton in 2015, to rendezvous with a high-school friend who now lives in Traverse City Mi. It is a good group of guys and I try to keep expenses to a minimum, so my wife is not put off by my request to return. The new venue this year is exciting for some, but an unwelcome change for others. I am hopeful that this new location will be a much-needed improvement. Dayton Hamvention is May 19-21. I am hopeful to see Ed Frac there this year, but with our Ozaukee club taking a pass this year, I am not so sure.

### On the Bench:

Speaking of antenna weather, I am really hoping to get many tasks accomplished in the coming weeks. I need to mount the 2meter Yagi, that I mentioned in last month's newsletter, pointed towards Traverse City MI to satisfy my curiosity if I can reach their repeater from Crandon WI. I also have a 2meter vertical that I bought used and have nearly completed rebuilding. I am just waiting on a few replacement parts to finish, and then up the tower we go. Lastly, I am battling with a rotor that worked on the bench, but once installed, just won't budge. I am sure I have the wiring askew, and I would rather not have to bring it down to trouble shoot; but so it goes. (No Chuck, I am not using the rotator for the Vertical!)

I noted in a recent QST magazine that the ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) was a blazing success. I think it was a brilliant idea, and really raised awareness to the myriad of National Parks both near and far, and to Amateur Radio, to boot. If you participated, even a little, in NPOTA, please consider giving a short presentation at a meeting. You could use the QST article as a very good source. I had considered getting into the year-long event, but was not

currently on Logbook of the World. So now I head off to try to demystify the process of getting Logbook of the World activated. And now that I told you that, it may just get done! 73 Kevin

## DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



If you operate HF, keeping track of the number of states and countries is just a natural thing. Hams started doing this as soon as they could make contacts outside their back yards. Before WWII hams kept count of the number of DX countries they worked unofficially. After WWII, the ARRL started the DXCC program. To get the basic award you had to work and confirm 100 different countries. To this date, it remains the most popular DX award.

So, what is a country? At first glance it seems simple, but after some digging there are some gray areas. The ARRL came up with some requirements to what conditions must be met

for a “country” to count for DXCC. You end up with Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico being DXCC countries. Actually, the ARRL does not call them countries, but “entities”.

On March 31, the ARRL dropped a bombshell on the DX committee by announcing that DXCC entities Kure and Wake Islands were being deleted from the DXCC list. The magnitude and timing of this caused many to think it was an April fool’s joke, but it wasn’t.

Countries are added and deleted over time for various reasons, mostly political ones. Before East and West Germany were united, they counted as separate countries. When they were united the old Germanys were deleted and a new one formed. When Czechoslovakia split into the Czech and Slovak Republics the old country was deleted and two new ones formed. The US controlled Canal Zone in Panama was a country until it was turned over to Panama in 1979. At other times rule changes cause some countries to be deleted and other times an island suddenly meets the criteria.

DXers have two DXCC totals they keep track of, the current country totals and total countries. Before the Kure/Wake deletions there were 339 current countries on the DXCC list. That will go down to 337. DXers also track total countries including deleted ones. So, my DXCC totals will be 337/351. The old timers at the top have around 390 including deleted countries. Longevity is a key to making it to the top.

There are several criteria the ARRL uses to determine if a body of land counts as a new entity. One is the distance from the mainland. Alaska and Hawaii fall under this rule. Others can be created because of different administrations. Some islands claimed by the US in the Caribbean and Pacific are managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service which gives them country status.

The recent deletions are due to Wake Island being changed to being administrated by The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument by President Obama in 2016. This region includes part of the Hawaiian Islands so Wake loses its different administration condition. Kure

could be listed because of an intervening DXCC entity. For Kure, that was Wake Island which no longer can provide that.

Another end of March development was the FCC announcement of two new ham bands. Hams will be able to use the 630 Meter band (472-479 KHz) and the 2,200 Meter band (135.7-137.8 KHz). The power limits are 1 watt EIRP for 2,200 M, and 5 W for 630 M. This has been expected for some time since they were ratified for ham allocation at the 2012 WARC conference. Several countries already have access.

Some hams have been operating on the 630 Meter band for several years with special experimental licenses. The results have been interesting, especially with digital modes that can pull weak signals out of the noise.

Getting on these bands will be a challenge. First, the antennas are not practical. If you think putting up a 160 Meter antenna is a problem on your city lot, consider one for 2,200 Meters! I was kind of surprised in the antenna restrictions for these bands. There is a license free band around 160KHz that some experimenters, mostly hams, are using. There requirements are a maximum of 1 watt and an antenna less than 15 meters long, including feed lines and radials. The new ham bands have no length restrictions but the maximum height is 60 meters (just under 200'). I had expected more restrictions.

Well, antennas are a problem, but generating power at under 0.5 MHz should not be a problem, right? Well, sort of. Generating the power is not so much of a problem, but coupling it efficiently into an extremely short (electrically anyway) is a problem. Some of the experimental stations use amplifiers running several hundred watts to get to a few EIRP watts. The effective dates have not yet been announced, but expect it to happen in the next few months. Who will be the first ORC member to make a QSO on one of these bands?

April is a quiet month for contests. There are a number of state QSO parties, some QRP events, etc. as usual. The only ARRL contest is the Rookie Roundup (SSB). This runs from 1800 UTC (1:00 PM local) April 19 and runs for only 6 hours. Everyone works rookies, defined as making your first QSO in 2015 or later. Rules can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

There is a little more DXpedition activity in April. The Seychelles in the Indian Ocean should be on the air by the time you read this. S79Z will be activated by a group of Czech hams. The planned dates are April 6-18. Look for them on 160-0M, CW & SSB.

The southwestern African country of Botswana will be on April 25-May 6 by a group of English hams. They plan to have up to 5 stations on the air from 160-6M, CW, SSB, and RTTY using the call A25UK.

South Cook will be activated by a trio of US hams April 28-May 13. Each will have a separate E51 call sign. They plan on being on 160-10m, SSB.

So, April will be a quiet month on the radio. With the warmer weather and no major contests, maybe it is a good time to start planning your 630 or 2,200 Meter station!

# THE COMPUTER CORNER

## No. 230: Patches and Updates

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



This month we have a guest editor. He is none other than Todd Fast, N9DRY, one of our ORC members. Todd came across the following information that applies to Windows 7 and 8, and passed it on to me at our last post-meeting pizza klatch. Thanks, Todd! We have added occasional words in brackets to increase clarity.

Microsoft pushed patches to devices running Windows 7 and 8.1 in recent time that collect information and transfer data to Microsoft regularly.

One of the main issues that Windows users may have with [this] telemetry is

that Microsoft does not reveal what it is collecting, and what is included when telemetry data is transferred to the company.

The following tutorial provides suggestions on limiting Windows data collecting and transferring. There is no guarantee that nothing is collected and/or submitted after making privacy related changes to the operating system, but a guarantee [is made] that data collecting [by Microsoft] is severely limited at the very least.

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The following Windows updates are related to telemetry and diagnostic data.

KB971033 Description of the update for Windows Activation Technologies.  
KB2952664 Compatibility update for keeping Windows up-to-date in Windows 7.  
KB2976978 Compatibility update for keeping Windows up-to-date in Windows 8.1 and 8.  
KB2990214 Update that enables you to upgrade from Windows 7 to a later version of Windows.  
KB3021917 Update to Windows 7 SP1 for performance improvements.  
KB3022345 Update for customer experience and diagnostic telemetry.

KB3044374 Update that enables you to upgrade from Windows 8.1 to Windows 10.  
KB3068708 Update for customer experience and diagnostic telemetry.  
KB3075249 Update that adds telemetry points to consent.exe in Windows 8.1 and Windows 7.  
KB3080149 Update for customer experience and diagnostic telemetry.  
KB3123862 Updated capabilities to upgrade Windows 8.1 and Windows 7.

You can remove any of the patches [by using the following two steps]:

1. Tap on the Windows key, type Windows Update, and hit the Enter key.
2. Select Installed Updates on the window that opens. Right-click on the updates [that you wish to remove] and select uninstall to remove them from the system.

My source for the Windows telemetry information was several threads in the Microsoft forum on dslreports.com (or broadbandreports.com, same site). I also subscribe to a number of IT and communications trade journals; their weekly emails provide more info yet.

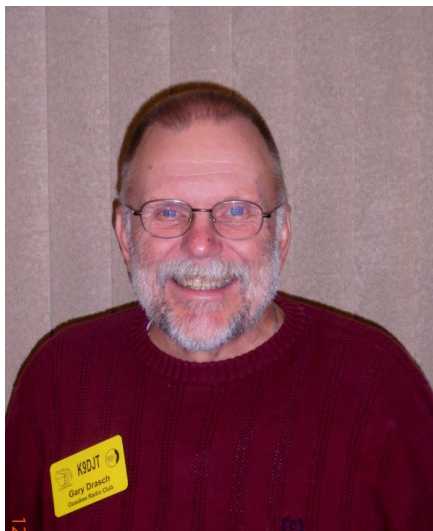
<https://www.dslreports.com>

<https://www.dslreports.com/forum/microsoft~days=180~start=20>

I have been registered on this site since 2001 and have never received spam or other unwanted crap traceable to the site. I monitor about 20 forums on a variety of subjects and rarely do I not at least see what new items are in each of those forums daily. They even have forums on electronics and on ham radio. **Happy computing!**

## The Wisconsin QSO Party: Total Bust!!!

De Gary Drasch (K9DJT)



The Wisconsin QSO Party was coming up on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, and I thought I'd activate Forest County by operating from my cabin just south of Armstrong Creek. There are only a few Technician class licensees and I think one Extra class in the county. That makes for a much-desired Q during the contest.

I arrived at my cabin at half-past noon on Friday and immediately started a fire in the wood burner; my only source of heat other than the dog. It was 10 degrees outside and 24 inside; much colder than I expected for March. That night it dropped to -2 which didn't help matters. It first got up to 60 degrees inside the next morning and to 65 on Sunday. Things were looking up. I set my rig up on Saturday and checked into Mid-cars and worked N4WIS, the USS Wisconsin. Later that afternoon, I tried working some DX and after a short time my SWR shot through the roof. I'm thinking "what the hell"? I

knew I had a splice in my coax outside, a pair of PL-259s and a barrel connector, which was installed and taped up about five years ago. I found it and started removing the tape in the 10-degree temperature. Normally the dog loves running around in the woods, but I noticed she was sitting at the door wanting to go back inside. After getting past the tape and to the connector, I discovered water had gotten into it, froze, and actually broke the PL-259 screw-on the cap. I have no idea how I had made any Q's at all.

Of course, I didn't have any spare connectors with me but then remembered I had an unused coax in my vehicle which I periodically use for HF when traveling. I went out, cut it off and brought inside the cabin. I then de-soldered the stub of coax and cleaned the connector up. (I did have tools, including a soldering gun and solder with me.) I was now ready. I ran an extension cord outside to a point where I could reach the coax, and replaced the connector. It was getting dark and the temperature was dropping. I promptly wrapped it up with Scotch 33+, and while doing it, I remembered the original tape job I had done was not with a quality tape. It was some cheap crap which I happened to have in the tool box at the time. Lesson learned! I was back in business, problem fixed! Made a few contacts, warmed my hands, and made some dinner.

The next morning, I split enough wood to last me through the contest. (Manually splitting wood is another story!) I came back inside; made something to eat for lunch and sat down by the

radio. There was some DX around and I thought I'd give it try. My 100 watts and OCF dipole just wasn't cutting it in the pile up though. I did a lot of calling with no results. And then it happened; 30 minutes before the contest was to start, the SWR shot through the roof again! And I said, "Oh darn!" Then again, I may have said something else. At that point I was done. I didn't even bother to figure out what was wrong. For a moment. I even thought of kicking the dog, but instead, I disassembled everything, packed up all my equipment, drained the plumbing and headed for home. So much for activating Forest County! The moral of the story is one, don't splice coax outside, and two, if you do, use quality tape and connectors. Needless to say, the cabin antenna will have a major overhaul this spring...hopefully while being a little bit warmer. If nothing else, I feel better now by sharing my frustration with all of you. It's now off my chest. For whatever reason, the XYL and dog just didn't understand.

## April Meeting Program

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Randy Timms, KB9JMH: VIPER RIDE – Visually Impaired Patriots Experiencing the Road

## Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes

By Ben Evens (K9UZ), Secretary

Kevin S. (K9VIN), President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Introductions of the attendees followed.

### Announcements:

Vic S. (WT9Q) showed his ORC jacket to the group, with his old call sign crossed off and his new call sign, both by embroidering.

### Program:

Pat V. (W9JI) gave a presentation on Software Defined Radio using a USB TV receiver.

### Auction:

There was no auction.

### Awards:

The ORC Annual Awards were presented as follows:

Meeting Program of the Year – Vic Shier, WT9Q  
Contester of the Year – Vic Shier, WT9Q  
Operator of the Year – Gary Drasch, K9DJT  
Presidential Award – Bill Howe, KA9WRL (posthumous)  
Turkey of the Year – Zach Yatso, KC9ZNR (not present)  
Ham of the Year – Loren Jentz, N9ENR (not present)

### Officer Reports:

Kevin S. (K9VIN), President – A volunteer is still needed to take the place of Loren (N9ENR) as next year's Spring Swapfest organizer. We are also looking for someone to take the Club Trustee position vacated by Ed R. (AA9W).

1st VP – No report.

2nd VP – No report.

Tom T. (KC9ONY), Repeater VP – There is a promising lead on a new antenna for the .97 repeater that would cost nothing. Tom and Nels H. (WA9JOB) have looked at it.

**Committee Reports:** None.

**Secretaries Report:**

Ben E. (K9UZ), Secretary – The minutes from February’s meeting is in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Dave B. (N9UNR), which was seconded by Chuck C. (W9KR) and passed without debate.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Dave B. (N9UNR), Treasurer – Motion to accept February’s Income and Expense Report was made by Nancy S. (KC9FZK), seconded, and carried without debate.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Tom T. (KC9ONY) – A balloon launch will be taking place this Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> in Richland Center, although the weather is uncertain. Members are invited to participate in the balloon chase.

**50/50 Drawing:**

Todd F. (N9DRY) was the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Stan (WB9RQR), seconded by Dave B. (N9UNR) and passed. The meeting was adjourned at about 8:40 PM.

**Attendance:**

There were 33 members and one guest present at the meeting.

A copy of the attendance sheet is available upon request in PDF format. Please contact Ben Evans via email at [ben@evansengsolutions.com](mailto:ben@evansengsolutions.com) for a copy.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Benjamin Evans, K9UZ  
Secretary

# So, what have I been doing in Florida?

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

Pat and I have been coming to Florida for the past 9 years and I know some of you think it is because it is warm during January, February and March. However, we come to volunteer at “sun-n-fun” which does have a fly-in but also has a museum, restoration center, high school and other youth activities and facilities as well.

This year my project was to refurbish a section of an MD-80 fuselage to form a back drop for a speaker’s podium and to revamp the interior to resemble a B-29 radio compartment, B-17 navigators compartment and display survival equipment along one side while providing typical airline seating along the other side. While we still lack some equipment it is pretty impressive.



Yes , we did have to watch the “Blue Angles” and other performers during the actual air show while we operated our special event station, W4S on 14.250 MHz, but someone had to watch.

OK, to be honest, it has been warmer during January, February, and March.

See you soon.



## AGENDA

April 12, 2017

3. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
4. Call to order: Introductions. Kevin Steers (K9VIN)
5. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming Events, etc.
6. Program: Randy Timms, KB9JMH: VI-PER RIDE – Visually Impaired Patriots Experiencing the Road
7. 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
8. Fellowship Break
9. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
10. Presidents Report – Kevin Steers (K9VIN)
11. 1<sup>st</sup> VP Report – Pat Volkman (W9JR)
12. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – David Carpenter, Sr. (KC9REP)
13. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, (KC9ONY)
14. Acceptance of Minutes: Ben Evans (K9UZ),
15. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow (N9UNR)
16. Committee reports.
  - A. Spring Swapfest
  - B. Other:
17. OLD BUSINESS
18. NEW BUSINESS
19. Adjournment to John's Pizza.

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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, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2017

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting