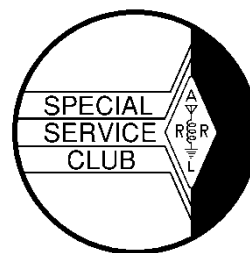




# The *ORC* Newsletter

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 -  
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[www.ozaukeeradioclub.org](http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org)

Volume XXVII

October 2008

Number 10

## From the President

De Mike Yuhas (AB9ON)

Many thanks to the ORC members who helped make our September outdoor swapfest a success! We were blessed with excellent weather, and a fine turnout of sellers and buyers. It was great to see commerce being conducted and friends welcoming friends. Kudos to all involved.

October's membership meeting features the homebrew gadgetry of Loren Jentz (N9ENR). Anyone who has ever seen Loren's enthusiasm can predict this will be one dynamic program. See you at the meeting, and see you on the air!

## November Sweepstakes

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

I call it the highlight of the fall contesting season, November SS, that is. CW on Nov. 1-2, and SSB on Nov. 15-16. Contests begin at 3:00 PM, local time on Saturday, each weekend, and end at 9:00 PM on Sunday. You may operate 24 out of the 30 hour periods each weekend. All bands, 160 thru 10 meters, except for the WARC bands. This is my current favorite contest. (Jean tells me I say that about every contest I work, and she's right—it depends upon the calendar.) My goal this year on the CW weekend will be to operate the full 24 hours allowed unless the Packers football game gets in the way, as it usually does. Join me, it's a fun contest.

For rules, see [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org), click on Operating Activities, then Contests, then Rules.

Coming up in October:

Oct. 12 North American RTTY Sprint—  
Rules in Oct. QST, page 82.

Oct. 18 Fall VHF Sprints

Oct. 19 Illinois QSO Party—

For rules see [www.w9awe.org](http://www.w9awe.org)

Oct. 25 CQ WW SSB Contest—[www.cqww.com](http://www.cqww.com)

Have fun contesting.

## VHF / UHF Corner

De Todd Sprinkmann (KC9BQA)

September is always a busy month for contesting and grid-chasing in the VHF/UHF world. The highlight is the ARRL September VHF QSO Party, which was Sept. 13-14. Due to the shaky weather, activity was down, overall. A bright spot for ORC was AA9WW and KB9ZOR operating together from EN53. This was their 1<sup>st</sup> contest and they got valuable experience.

ORC also helped out with QSO's on 146 FM. I had 13 Q's on simplex during that timeframe, which is darn good for FM. I know that with more time and familiarity, we'll continue to grow the numbers of FM contesters in SE WI. While it's true that the majority of VHF/UHF contesting and grid chasing occurs on SSB, the sheer numbers favor the FM folks. If FM'ers ever got on in big numbers, it would really spice things up. The best contests are busy ones. If you have questions, I'll be happy to help.

There was also an enjoyable 2 meter sprint on Monday evening, Sept. 22. It ran for four hours. Both propagation and activity was excellent. Once again, there were some FM Q's to be had on 146.55, 146.58 and 146.49.

We were also happy to see a new rover in the Milwaukee area. WB9TFH was loud throughout his 4 grids and he helped people's scores. On SSB, with a 3-el quad for 144 MHz above his car's roof, WB9TFH worked into the Twin Cities and out to Cleveland. For anyone who wonders

what a VHF/UHF rover's vehicle looks like, read K4GUN's article in the October QST, starting on page 48. Roving is a great way to make immediate friends in VHF contesting! As well as express yourself radio-wise, if your QTH limits what you can do.

We are into the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of a very successful FM simplex net. It runs @8:30pm every Thursday on 146.43, vertical polarization. I am net control, and the purpose of this net is to increase activity on simplex. We've had over 20 check-ins each of the past two weeks, so listen along or better yet join in and say hello. You can stay as long or as little as you like – it's very casual. The response to the nets has been fantastic, with check-ins from Door County down into Central Illinois. And this is on FM!

The next big VHF/UHF contest is the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. It runs from 1pm on Sat., Jan 19<sup>th</sup> until 10pm on Sun., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be putting on a big push for this one. There's plenty of time to improve your antennas and feed lines before winter sets in.

If you can only operate one band in a contest, 2 meters is definitely it. A close 2<sup>nd</sup> would be 6 meters, followed by 70cm, and 1.25 meters. And if you have one of those multi-band HF rigs with SSB on 6, 2 or 432, get a horizontally polarized beam or omni-directional loop, and start hearing what you've been missing.

I also run a SSB net on 144.250 at 8:30 on Wednesday nights. All are welcome to join in. I do this net on behalf of our VHF/UHF group, located at [www.badgercontesters.org](http://www.badgercontesters.org). Several ORC members are involved with the BC'ers, and we'd enjoy having you as a member as well.

As I wrap things up for this month, I encourage anyone with questions to email me (I'm good in QRZ) or ask during one of the nets. The questions you ask may help someone else too.

## **The 300 Pound Ladder**

### ***BELIEVE IT OR NOT***

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

I had a rural paper route back in 1940. I delivered the Council Bluffs (IOWA) NONPAREIL to about 25 customers on my bike over a distance of about 5 miles. It was not very productive—the

paper sold for 3 cents on weekdays and 15 cents on Sunday, but it kept me supplied with model airplane kits and ice cream cones. A fella named Bob Ripley wrote a column for that paper and many others around the country. He called it "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" because the stories he told were so fantastic that any thinking person couldn't possibly believe them. But many people did. So many, in fact, that he sold the idea to one of the radio networks (That was before TV was born.), and a radio show was aired using the same name. Mr. Ripley never claimed the stories were true, he simply closed each column by inviting readers to "Believe It Or Not". Believers used to say "it's got to be true because it was in Believe It or Not." (That's sorta like people today saying "it's got to be true because it was on the internet".) I was 13 years old at the time, but in spite of that I never believed anything he said, that is, until recently.

When we moved to West Bend 15 years ago my first project was to install the HF antennas. I set up the aluminum extension ladder and carried the 3 necessary tripods to the roof, and installed them to support the 20 & 15 meter dipoles and one end of the 40 & 80 wires, which were strung to trees on the back lot line. I carried the ladder out to the tree line and pushed it up as high as the extension would go and finished the installation very quickly. No problem—the ladder only weighed about 50 pounds and the distance to the trees was only about 150', and I had enough gas left in my tank to push the lawn mower around to cut weeds for a half hour after completing the project.

Now, 15 years later, I'm beginning to rethink Mr. Ripley's columns in view of the strange things that are happening at our house. Several days ago I found one end of the 40 M dipole laying on the ground—the rope had broken in the tree. Not surprising, since it had been up there 15 years. So I figured this would be no problem, I'd just take the ladder out to the tree and string up a new rope. But first, I thought it would be a good idea to check the tripod end of that antenna. But when I took the ladder out of the garage and wrestled it up to the roof I knew right away that something beyond my understanding had happened to it. My best guess is that it now weighs at least 300 pounds and I'll never be able to car-

ry it back to the tree line, let alone push it up into a tree. But since I had gotten the ladder in place, I went up on the roof to see what condition the tripods were in. That's when I began to respect Mr. Ripley's writings—the roof pitch was much steeper than it was 15 years ago and the peak was much higher above ground. Somehow our ranch house had changed to a 3 story house when I climbed up there, but when I got down I found that nothing had changed inside the house. Strange happenings. Believe it or not.

So all this leaves me with a problem. CW November Sweepstakes is coming up on Nov.1, and I'm without a 40 meter antenna. *Is there someone (or maybe 2 someone's) out there who would be willing to give me a hand for a couple hours one of these days?* Volunteers must be able to handle the 300 pound ladder and not be afraid of heights. Anyone who remembers Bob Ripley is probably too old for this job, but is welcome to come along for a beer when we finish. We can talk about the good old days while the young pups do the work.

It looks like I'm beginning to pay the price of longevity, but it sure beats the alternative.

Bob, W9LO

## ORC Fall Swapfest

The Fall Swapfest continues to grow and prosper in its third year. This is turning out to be a really fun project and is now turning a profit. Certainly Chairman Gabe was blessed with great weather and a good turnout of ORC members to help. It was really a great time and Fireman's Park is the perfect setting.



**Bill Howe (KA9WRL) again acted as the event announcer as he also marketed some of his many treasurers,**

This year there were 148 paid admissions for \$740, food income of \$137 and a total of \$122 in scholarship project sales. The net income to the club operating fund was \$179.85 after deduction of all expenses and equipment purchases. Good show! Looks like we are well on our way to another profitable ongoing annual project.



**Among the more interesting areas was this array of antique and vintage radios.**



**There was a great variety of vendors this year and we filled two complete rows on both sides of the isles.**



**Here was a beautiful display of quality test equipment for sale. Amazing what will fit in the trunk of the car.**



**Ed Frac (AA9WW) and Ed Rate (AA9W) just sat and watched to see what kind of folks would buy Ruhlmann's (W9IPR) stuff.**



**Lots of vacuum tubes, manuals and whatever. Something for everybody.**



**Terry Koller (KA9RFM) was there with his converted "pop-up" and drew crowds to see the tiny operating engines he has built.**



**A really relaxed selling atmosphere was enjoyed by Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT) and Gerry Walker (KB9IMH).**



**Great job by the Chairman Gabe Chido (WI9GC), Grounds Coordinator John Schradler (W9NRG) and Jake Schmeling (KB9ZOR)**

## The B-17 comes to town

On Sept. 26-29 the EAA B-17 "Aluminum Overcast" was at the West Bend airport as hosted by EAA chapter 1158.



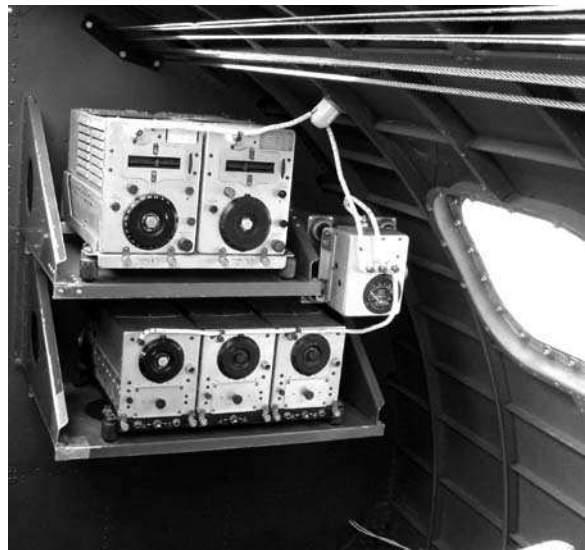
**Touchdown of the B17 is truly a beautiful sight and sound. It was a rare opportunity**

Also there were a number of WWII B-17 veterans who were only too eager to share their stories about flying out of the airfields about London and into the German airspace – their stories are hair rising and we certainly owe them a great debt of gratitude.



**At least the radio operator had a view as he listened to code on his BC348. These receivers are still available occasionally at swap-fests.**

I was especially surprised at the number of crewmembers there who were radio operators. They outnumbered all the others combined. I guess CW and RF leads to long life. In any event, I took a number of photo's of the radio operator's station to give the ORC a feel for what it must have been like in terms of equipment utilized.



**In front of the operator were the vintage "command set" 100 watt CW transmitters (2) and receivers (3). Many of our ORC members bought these as surplus and these were their first CW rigs.**

One of the things I noted was that few of the interconnecting cables were in place and the

BC475 equipment was less than pristine. In fact, it was even missing a few meters. Perhaps replacement of these equipments could be an ORC project of interest.



Behind the operator was the high power transmitter, the BC475. As I recall these were converted to run around 500 watts on the Ham bands. To change bands you replaced a complete tuning unit. These systems were not only some of the first high power Ham rigs following the war they came complete with a large case of TVI.



There was a separate storage rack for the individual band tuning units. I noted the lowest frequency was 200 to 500kc. Wow!



If the radios didn't have enough knobs and dials you could always go the flight deck for a whole new array of interesting stuff.

## Upcoming Events

### October

- 8<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**
- 11<sup>th</sup> – **Fireman's Park Safety Day**
- 11<sup>th</sup> NA RTTY Sprint
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Fall VHF Sprint
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> **JOTA Boy Scout "on the air"  
Weekend @ Pioneer Village**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> OZARES
- 25<sup>th</sup> – 26 CQ DX WW SSB Contest
- 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 10 – 10 CW QSO Contest

### November

- 1<sup>st</sup> – MRC Swapfest @ Elks Club on Good Hope across from AES
- 1<sup>st</sup> – 2nd ARRL November CW Sweepstakes
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November Phone Sweepstakes  
ARRL 160 Meter SSB contest
- 29<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Parade – Grafton**
- 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> CQ WW CW DX Contest

### December

- 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> ARRL 160 Meter Contest
- 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> ARRL 10 Meter Contest
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Membership Meeting**

## Club Static

Ed Rate seems to have recovered nicely from his operation and has embarked on another of his "mystery trips".

Joyce Harvey (WB9IMA) is currently recovering from her second knee replacement.

Stan and Nancy Kaplan (WB9RQR & KC9FZK) made a trip to Israel where they visited Stan's two sons.

## Minutes– Sept. 10th, 2008

De Tim Boppre, KA9EAK

President Mike Yuhas, AB9ON, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Attendees introduced themselves and responded to Mike's question of what areas you or others might consider you to be an expert. There were a fair number of jack of all trades, master of none as well as some folks that knew it all 40 years ago but "all" has become a much larger space over time (though the essentials still count for a lot today), and Tom, W9VBQ, said that he as an expert at being a friend to Bill, KA9WRL, which is mighty fine thing to be an expert in.

### Announcements and bragging rights

Doug, N9KG, informed the group that he placed second for the second year in a row in the Low Power Phone category for the ARRL DX contest.

Tom, W9IPR, announced that he got his 6m Lawn Chair antenna working and that it was headed for his roof. He did not clarify his intent to operate with the antenna, sit in it, or operate while sitting in it, once it was on the roof.

Leon, K9GCF, announced that he had just completed a total rebuild of his SB-220 and that it even worked.

Ken, W9GA, reminded everyone about the VHF contest 13-14 September.

### Program:

The program consisted of a presentation by Scott and Erin from Astrowings ([www.astrowings.com](http://www.astrowings.com)), the local RC club. They spent a fair amount of time presenting the progression of transmitters and receivers in the history of the RC hobby. They brought examples of many radios both old and new. They also brought some electric RC helicopters and flew them about the room. There were a number of questions regarding the hobby. Nels, WA9JOB, asked the best Amateur Radio question, "Do they use 6 meters anymore?" and the answer was sadly, no. Everyone is headed for 2.4GHz. Based upon the interest of the crowd and the types of questions (how much does it cost? Where can I buy some of these things?) my guess is that there were some Amateur Radio operators in the crowd that are going to be looking into another hobby.

### Fellowship break:

Gabe, WI9GC, held the 50/50 and Terry, KA9RFM won.

### Auction:

Stan, WB9RQR, assisted by Ed, AA9W held the auction. There were an exceptional number of items in the auction this month. In fact, once it became apparent that the auction was going to send the meeting well into overtime,

Stan and Ed decided to hold some of the items for next month.

### **Acceptance of minutes**

A motion was made by Stan, WB9RQR, to accept the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Leon, K9GCF. The motion was carried.

### **Treasurer's report**

Nels, WA9JOB, gave the treasurer's report including the results of the fall swapfest. We cleared \$301.85 after expenses. A portion of the proceeds went to the scholarship fund and the rest to the treasury. A motion was made by Dave, N9UNR, to accept the treasurer's report as read (subject to audit.) Jim, K9QLP seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Special thanks were given to Gabe, WI9GC, and all of the folks that made the swapfest a success.

Dave, N9UNR, made a motion to reserve Firemen's Park for 12 September 2009. Bill, KA9WRL seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Jim, K9QLP was going to check with the Cedarburg city officials to verify the availability of the date and book it.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Repeater report*

Nels, WA9JOB, reported that he has made a number of updates to both the 97 and the 220 repeaters.

Tom, AA9XK, and Ed, AA9WW, reported that the corn roast was well attended with good food and good camaraderie.

Bill, KA9WRL, gave a report on the recent lighthouse activation. Twelve club members participated in the event operating an ICOM 7800 that was provided by Rick, N9PMR. Bill passed around a copy of the QSL card for the event featuring the photography of none other than Tom, W9VBQ.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business**

Tom, W9IPR, announced that he will head up the nominating committee for the officers for next year.

Bill, KA9WRL, announced that JOTA was coming up. It is the third weekend in October and asked for volunteers to come out to Pioneer Village and work with the Scouts that will attend the event.

### **Attendance:**

39 attendees - 37 members, and 2 guests.

Mike AB9ON, Stan WB9RQR, Ed AA9W, Kent N9WH, Gabriel WI9GC, Dave N9UNR, Mark N0OKS, Nels WA9JOB, Gary W9XT, Tom W9IPR, Mark KC9GST, Ray W9KHH, Mark AB9CD, Terry KA9RFM, Jim K9QLP, Dominic W9KKX, Tim KA9EAK, Patrick KC9LRK, Tom W9VBQ, Bill KA9WRL, Ron W9BCK, Ed AA9WW, Leon K9GCF, Paul KC9NHD, Roger W9UVV, Doug N9KG, John W9NRG, Dick AB0UF, Kate KB0SIO, Ray W9BUJ, Jeff WB9PZD, Bob W9LO, Ken W9GA, Ed AA9GT, Jim W9LL, Julia KB9WBQ, Tom AA9XK,

A motion to adjourn was made by Stan, WB9RQR, and seconded by Ed, AA9W, the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.



## **AGENDA**

*October 8th, 2008*

1. Call to order – Mike (WB9ON)
  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).
- 
9. Repeater report – John (W9NRG)
  10. Committee reports.  
Membership –  
Youth Program – JoTA – Bill (KA9WRL)  
Swapfest - Gabe Chido  
Safety Day – Jim Albrinck
  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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Grafton**

**Wednesday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**