



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 Facebook: facebook.com/orcwi

Volume XXIX

July, 2016

Number 7

From the President - Field Day & Corn Roast Update

de Chuck Curran, W9KR



We again had a wonderful Field Day event for this year's activities. The weather was ve3ry good and Mother Nature almost co-operated fully, except for the storm and lightning that occurred early Sunday morning.

The computer network set up and maintained by Zach Yatso, KC9ZNR, worked very well, a big Thanks to Zach! The Friday night Turkey dinner, using the new grills was also a wonderful moment for all, with Stan, WB9RQR, and Nancy, KC9FCK, cooking some great Turkey on the club's new Weber Grills. Thanks to all who brought a dish to pass!

Field Day provided me with a means of learning how to use my new pneumatic tennis ball launcher to assist three different stations in their efforts to put up their respective wire antennas. The tennis ball pulls a monofilament fishing line up over the tree and then you use the fishing line to pull up your rope or cord. It is rated as being capable of 180 feet in height; we never needed to test its rating. It did work very well; glad I have this for future needs.

A big Thanks to all club members who supported the Field Day event, showing up to help with the set up and tear down is always great with the crew we had.

Now on August 13th we will be having the ORC Corn Roast, also scheduled for the Pleasant Valley Nature Park. Nancy Stecker, KC9FCK and Kate Holt, KB0SIO, will be the coordinators, with Dave Carpenter, Sr., KC9REP, Kevin Steers, K8VIN and Chuck W9KR helping with picking up supplies and set up. Please put the Corn Roast on your calendar and plan on attending!

We have our fall Swapfest coming up in September. Please take a look at that stuff in your basement or house that you haven't touched in years. Might it be something suitable to donate to the Scholarship fund for resale at the upcoming Fall Swapfest? A great way to clean out your set of storage shelves!

73's to all,

Chuck W9KR

DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



Well, we made it through another Field Day, probably the biggest event in the ham radio calendar. I realized that was my 41st consecutive FD effort. I think it was easier to set up and tear down back then, even if the radios are smaller and lighter now.

I hope you had a chance to stop down at the ORC site to help out, operate, or just socialize. The weather didn't cooperate with the storms Sunday morning, so I expect our score was down a bit from previous years.

Radio activities in July are also down quite a bit this month. The combination of poor summer propagation and outdoor activities competing for our time are the reasons. The biggest contest of the month is the IARU HF World Championships that start at 1200 UTC (7:00 AM local) on July 9 and runs only 24 hours.

There are a lot of categories for this one. You can run CW only, phone only or mixed mode. Then you get to choose high, low or QRP power levels. Or you can get together with friends and operate multi-single mixed mode. There is something for everyone here. The exchange is the signal report and IARU zone. That is different than the CQ zone which is used in the CQ sponsored contests. For us, the IARU zone is 8. You can work everyone, once per band and mode. QSO points range from 1 to 5 points depending on the location of the other station.

Multipliers are the number of IARU zones worked per band, plus the number of IARU headquarter stations worked. Most of these stations will use a call sign with HQ in the suffix. There are a number of HQ stations announced including V84SHQ (Brunei), T40HQ (Cuba), E2HQ (Thailand) and ET3AA (Ethiopia). Our IARU representative is of course the ARRL. W1AW will be W1AW/9 for this year's contest. The CW station will be from K9CT and phone from WB9Z. Craig and Jerry have fine stations and are sure to make a lot of contacts.

Unfortunately the IARU contest starts during the South Milwaukee Hamfest so I usually don't put more than a token effort. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

Two other contests are the following weekend, starting on July 16. The first is the RTTY NAQP. There are six NAQPs (two for each mode) every year and I have mentioned them before. They are short, 12 hours and you can only operate 10 of them. I will be on part time for this one. Rules at <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

The other is the CQ World Wide VHF Contest. It starts at 1800 UTC (1:00 PM local) on Saturday July 16 and runs to 2100 UTC on Sunday. This is for 6 and 2 Meters only. The exchange is your grid which is EN53 for most of us unless you are close to the lake where it is EN63. I have never operated this one, but apparently it is pretty popular with the VHF contest crowd. Rules are <http://www.cqww-vhf.com/>

There are some DXpeditions this month. A few are the IARU HQ stations mentioned above. A group of Russian hams are going to Mongolia and will be active July 19-24. Each will be using a

different call with JT0 prefix. They plan on being on 80-6 meters as well as 2 M EME. EME is being added to more DXpeditions these days.

The rest of the DXpeditions I am aware of are single operator efforts. It is usually just best to be active and monitor the DX spotting networks to catch those.

So, there are some reasons to be inside and on the radio if you are so inclined. If you are outside, it is a good time to start planning your antenna improvements. Of course it is a bad time to actually do any of them. Everyone knows that antennas don't work when put up in warm weather!

The Computer Corner - No. 221: You Might As Well Upgrade

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664
(262) 268-1949 skaplan@mcw.edu

If you are using Windows 7, 8 or 8.1, you might as well upgrade to Windows 10. "Why should I do that?" you might ask.



First, it is free. At least it is free to the end of July ... July 29th 2016, to be exact. So you don't need to lay out any funds, if you do it by then. After that date, it will cost you well over \$100.

Second, Windows 10 is not a bad operating system. Indeed, it is quite good. It is much more stable and generally better than XP or Win7 or Win 8. Oh yes, there are lots of leaks of personal information that will occur if you install it. However, there are also lots of programs to thwart those leaks of info.

The programs to plug the leaks are free and can be seen at, <http://www.majorgeeks.com>, compared and one chosen and downloaded from our old friend, <http://www.majorgeeks.com>. So the issue is a little like someone offering you a brand new Lexus as an even trade for your old beater. A no-brainer.

Third, it is relatively painless to upgrade. About the only danger is loss of some of your time. The upgrade software will check if you have enough memory, space and speed in your old computer, and it will not start the upgrade if you don't have those. If all is OK but something else causes the upgrade to fail during installation, it will roll back the upgrade and replace your old system. I have had that actually happen, and the roll back worked perfectly. So it seems that there is nothing to fear.

Must you upgrade? No. While Microsoft long ago quit developing Win7 as an operating system (between 9Apr2015 for Service Packs and 13Jan2015 for main support), it will continue Extended Support through mid-January 2020. That Extended Support means your copy will download and install security updates just fine and it will make available information on your copy in the Microsoft Knowledge Base and Support sites, all through mid-Jan 2020. So you are not "stuck" with upgrading now or losing support in 2016. You can keep old 7 going all the way to 2020 if you want to. But it makes more sense to upgrade, if you can, as noted above.

So why not do it? Or switch over to Linux. Happy Computing

EARCHI Portable End Fed Antenna, part deux

Tim Boppre, KA9EAK

In our last episode (see the June 2016 newsletter), the transformer was about to be placed in a box. Now there are all sorts of boxes that things can be placed in all sorts of reasons something might be placed in a box. The suspense may well have been a bit much for some but I'll resolve the tension and reveal that the transformer was placed in a blue box. To be exact a transparent blue box. And it was placed in the box to protect it from the elements to some extent but mostly to provide a place in which to mount the various connectors for the antenna, counterpoise, and feedline. Now wasn't that worth the wait?



And now I'll continue the story of the EARCHI Portable End Fed antenna.

In order to test the transformer I soldered several resistors in series to get 450 Ω and tested it with my MFJ-259B. Ideally it should indicate around 50 Ω at the input to the matchbox across 6-40m and as indicated in this chart it's relatively close with the exception of 6m. I'm not too concerned with 6m as I have a better portable 6m antenna option.

The next step was to get it on the air. For the antenna and counterpoise wire I chose to use Wireman 532 which is 18 AWG stranded wire with a silky coating that is very easy to coil. The initial antenna wire length was 30 feet and the counterpoise 16 feet. The antenna was supported by a Spiderbeam 12m fiberglass pole. I taped the end of the antenna to the tip of the Spiderbeam pole and stood it up, bungee corded to a picnic table.

The first day of testing I simply used my TS-480SAT, a Welz SP-220 SWR meter, and a Dentron JR Monitor antenna tuner. Power was provided by a trolling motor battery. The antenna was fed by 20 feet of RG-8X. I connected the antenna, went to 20m, and checked the match of the antenna. After a few tweaks to the Dentron I was able to work W3US, an NPOTA station at NP52, Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota with good signal reports both ways. So it appeared to work.



Another day of testing involved the use of my MFJ-259B and more time spent across the HF bands testing both with and without a counterpoise. Thus far the antenna appears to be functioning as expected. On some bands it's within the tuning range of the TS-480SAT's internal tuner and on others I need to use the Dentron external tuner. I've got more testing to do which will include varying the length of the antenna wire, the presence or absence and length of the counterpoise, and the length of the feedline. Obviously all of these factors are interrelated, the goal being to find a set that works best for the bands upon which I wish to operate. For now it is functioning well enough to use while camping this year and also for a few NPOTA activations.

Complete instructions for building an EARCHI antenna are located here: http://www.earchi.org/92011endfedfiles/Endfed6_40.pdf.

Part one, featuring the exciting winding of the transformer can be found in the June 2016 newsletter.

The EARCHI end fed was a fun project to build and I'd recommend it as a simple, inexpensive, easily portable HF antenna.

Upcoming Events & Club Static

The South Milwaukee ARC Swapfest in Oak Creek is this Saturday – it's a good one.

The ORC Corn Roast is August 13th at Pleasant Valley Park (same place as field day)

AES is going out of business and will close the doors at the end of the month.

Wanted and Not Wanted

Tri-bander beam – Cushcraft A3S – good condition – \$125 - contact W9IPR, Ruhlmann

Heathkit SG-8 RF signal generator – Scholarship fund - \$22 - call W9IPR

Heathkit Mobil Tuning Meter - \$13 – scholarship fund – call W9IPR

Heathkit resistance substitution box RS-1 - \$11 –scholarship fund – call W9IPR

Heathkit capacitance substitution box CS-1 - \$11 – scholarship fund – call W9IPR

Heathkit “Q” Multiplier QF-1 - \$18 – scholarship fund – call W9IPR

Hallicrafters S-40B HF receiver - \$75 – scholarship fund – call W9IPR

Note: this stuff and more will be going to the South Milwaukee Swapfest Saturday morning.

Field Day 2016 -

It was great fun at Pleasant Valley Park. We operated 5 HF stations portable on SSB and CW plus we operated digital, satellites and 2 and 6 meters. There was something for everybody including the Friday night turkey and refreshments. We were a bit shy of operators during the night hours but all in all it was another great time.



John and Sandy announced our presence at the park.



Chuck was using his new antenna support line



Gary was busy adding points via satellite contacts.



Mark's efforts really boosted the 40 mtr. CW score.



Zach did a great job promoting the GOTA station.



Julia and Sue created our best PR booth ever.



Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes

June 08, 2016

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary

Kevin Steers (K9VIN), 1st Vice President, called the meeting to order at 1930. Introductions followed.

Announcements:

Mark F. (KB9PXE) showed off the new Bluetooth Smart Padlocks from Master Lock.

Program:

Ken Boston (W9GA) presented on "Field Day Planning" and Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT) offered insight on "Field Day Tips and Strategies".

50/50 Drawing:

The 50/50 drawing was held by Kristian (KC9TFP) and the winning ticket was #270.

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 – No report.

David Carpenter Sr. (KC9REP), 2nd VP – No report.

Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY), Repeater VP – Work on the remote site, cleaning, and electrical work at the repeater continues. There have been no complaints about repeater operation.

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

Dave Barrow (N9UNR), Treasurer – Motion to accept Treasurer's report was made by Dave B., seconded by Ken B., and carried without debate.

Committee Reports:

Loren J. (N9ENR) reported on the successful Spring Swap Fest. It was larger than last year, with 284 total tickets sold to 42 vendors bringing a total income of \$2,445.

The ORC Corn Roast on Saturday, August 13, starts at 11:00 am and will be held at Pleasant Valley Nature Park. Details are available on the ORC web site or email any questions to Nancy Stecker (KC9FZK).

Tom R. (W9IPR) complimented the fine equipment trays that were made for storing/displaying sales items, and reported that they helped to sell ~\$1,300 of items for the Scholarship Fund.

Old Business:

N/A.

New Business:

N/A.

Adjournment:

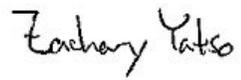
Stan K. (WB9RQR) made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ray T. (W9KHH) and the motion carried.

Attendance:

There were 43 members present and 2 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Yatso". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'Z' and 'Y'.

Zachary Yatso, KC9ZNR
Secretary

AGENDA

July 13th, 2016

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: Elections
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 –

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 ?

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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, July 13th

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting