



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

September, 2016

Number 9

From the President

de Chuck Curran, W9KR



I had two interesting trips, the first with Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, and the second with Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR. Both trips were to the same location a house on North Prospect Ave. in Milwaukee. We were invited by a Steve Zimmel, from Prairie Financial Group from Waukesha. They were handling the distribution of the left over radio related gear from the Hokanson estate.

During the first trip we met other representatives from 6 radio clubs who were all invited. A number was assigned to each club and we would take turns picking out an item to return to our clubs with.

The first event was held in the house, where all the furniture had already been removed. Racks were now in position in every room on the first floor and in the basement. There was a very large collection of gear, but the house contained a small percentage of items that any of the six clubs had an interest in. Mr. Hokanson had video gear and recorders from the 1950-1965 time periods, even several new RCA Videocon tubes for your black & white television camera! On the first trip we did locate a nice Bird watt meter with VHF slugs and a dummy load, about the best item found. Many, many Weston meters in black Bakelite cases, very few with useful ranges and dial faces, so only a few were even looked at. About 6-8 percent of the gear was claimed and taken, the rest was left sitting.

Tom and I then came for the garage event. Here is where all the gear was placed on shelves, in the garage. We were much more fortunate in our efforts which took place on August 25th. Here again, much of the garage gear was dated and related to Mr. Hokinson's personal interests, very little general purpose test gear was present. No Ham Radio gear such as receivers, Transmitters or transceivers were available. However, there was a pile of about 45-50 CB rigs, I kept at least a ten foot separation, afraid I would catch some disease! They all looked like they had been dragged on a rope behind a truck.

We did a pretty good job of filling the back of Tom's Suburban, with three Military RF Signal Generators being part of the haul. All of this will be part of the Scholarship Fund gear and will be on display at the Fall Swapfest on September 24th.

Tom will be bringing up the Fall Swapfest at our September meeting, please consider helping out, another pair of hands is always welcomed!

73's to All, Chuck W9KR

DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



September has arrived and with it cooler weather, football, better HF propagation and shorter days. The days will continue to get shorter until near Christmas and the Winter Solstice. Right now, around Labor Day, the days are getting shorter by about 3 minutes each day. That builds to about 20 minutes each week. It happens fast! Later this month the days and nights will be equal at 12 hours each at the Autumnal Equinox on September 22. We also know it as the first official day of fall.

HF propagation in the northern hemisphere is generally considered to be the best that month following the equinox. This year will not be as good as last year as we continue on the declining side of the solar cycle. Right now the minimum is predicted to be around 2020, but

that could vary by plus or minus a couple of years. The last minimum lasted about twice as long as normal.

A couple of weeks ago K9LA, an expert on propagation, gave a webinar about the current solar cycle. The webinar was sponsored by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (<http://wwrof.org>). The WWROF sponsors interesting webinars every few months. You can view a recording of the webinar at <http://wwrof.org/webinar-archive/solar-topics-where-were-headed/>. It is well worth watching if you are interested in solar cycles and HF propagation.

So, despite lower sunspot count, there will be some interesting activity if you choose the right times and bands. Although openings on 10 and 12 meters will be short and infrequent, there will be some good openings on 20 and 17 meters. If you are interested in DXing and don't have a big gun station, I would suggest checking out 17 meters. Because it not a contest band there are fewer really big stations on this band to compete against. I have worked nearly 250 different countries on 17 and that is without a beam and only 100 watts.

Of course shorter days and declining sunspots generally indicate improving conditions on the low bands, 160, 80 and 40 meters. Maybe it is time to take down that 10 beam and replace it with something with a longer wave length.

DXpeditions pick up in September. Probably the most interesting is a couple of DXpeditions to Albania by a group European hams using ZA/home call. The first group from September 7-12. The second group is there September 9-19 including the WAS SSB contest.

Albania is an interesting story from a DXCC perspective. Albania was a closed society for many years. As such ham radio was banned, and it was on just about every DXer's most wanted list. Finally, it was cracked in 1991 by Martti, OH2BH (who is part of the first group this month). They really did it right. The operation lasted several weeks with different groups of hams coming in for a week or so shift.

What was really special is they helped the government develop their ham radio regulations, and set up training for Albanian citizens so they could get their licenses. For a number of years afterwards ZA calls were pretty common but for some reason they have not been on the air very much the last dozen years or so. Hopefully that will change.

Last month I mentioned VP6 Pitcairn Island. A second operation started up on September 3 and will continue to November 25. This one is done by DL2AH using the call VP6AH. Despite being described as a "holiday style" operation, he has been very active.

Another operation with a number of operators is to Faroe Island. The group of Belgium operators will be signing OY/home call. Look for them to be active on 80-6 meters with an emphasis on the higher bands. SSB, CW, PSK and RTTY modes will be used on this one.

There are quite a number of other announced DXpeditions put on this month. Getting on and listening should produce some new all-time new ones or new band countries for just about any DXer. Contests start to pick up this month too.

For those who like the VHF bands, the ARRL September VHF contest runs from 1800 UTC (1:00 PM local) Saturday September 10 and ends 0259 UTC on Monday September 12 (9:59 PM local Sunday night). Use bands 6 meters and above. Exchange is your grid square. Although the September version does not offer the potential of tremendous 6 meter sporadic E openings that the one in June does, fall produces its own interesting propagation. Most common is trop ducting. This can happen when cold air gets under warm moist air. The temperature inversion can cause VHF and UHF to be bent back to earth for propagation well beyond normal ranges. Look for that after a cold front comes through. Full rules at <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

Another big contest on the same weekend is the Worked All Europe (WAE) SSB weekend. The CW WAE was in August and described in the last newsletter.

The CQ World Wide DX Contest RTTY version starts at 0000 UTC September 24. That is Friday night at 7:00 PM and runs 48 hours. The exchange is signal report, CQ zone and state. We would send "599 04 WI". Unlike the other CQWW contests, you can work US stations for QSO credit. Full rules at http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest/cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest_rules/2016_cq_ww_rtty_dx_contest_rules.pdf

Note that in a general effort to get results out earlier, logs for the CQWW RTTY contest are due 5 days from the end of the contest. Of course with computer logging and submitting logs over the Internet there is little reason not send them in within an hour of the end of the contest.

That wraps up September. See you on the air.

The Computer Corner

No. 223: Top Freeware Picks

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664
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Most of you know I am partial to majorgeeks (www.majorgeeks.com), the best website for free (and pay-for, if you really want to pay) software on the planet. They check all their stuff for malware of any kind, and also to see if the software does what it says. I trust them completely! Indeed, they are my browser's homepage on each of my computers.



If you scroll down a bit on their page, they have a left panel Site Info bar. One of the things there is Top Freeware Picks, consisting of their "**absolutely best, 5 star rated, totally free programs**". They are arranged in 21 categories, and each has a list of 3-5 programs. Just to give you a feel, here are the categories and the top program in it:

- All-In-One-Suites:
- Anti-Spyware & Anti-Malware
- Anti-Virus Protection
- Backup
- Browsers
- CD/DVD/Blu-Ray Burning Tools
- Data Recovery
- Defragmenting Tools
- Diagnostics
- Drive Cleaners
- Driver Updaters
- Email Clients
- File Compression
- Graphics

- Simple System Tweaker
- Malwarebytes Anti-Malware
- Avira Free Antivirus
- Macrium Reflect
- Pale Moon
- CDBurnerXP Portable
- Wise Data Recovery
- Defraggler
- Tweaking.com Windows Repair
- Wise Disk Cleaner
- Driver Booster
- Mozilla Thunderbird
- 7-Zip
- FastStone Image Viewer

Multimedia	foobar2000
Microsoft Office Alternatives	LibreOffice Productivity Suite
Partitioning	Partition Logic
PDF Alternatives	Sumatra PDF
System Information	Tweaking.com – System Information
Text Editors (Notepad, Wordpad Alternatives)	Abiword
Uninstallers	GeekUninstaller
Honorable Mentions	(others such as Teamviewer, Patch My PC, etc.)

Now, realized I have listed just the first program of the 3-5 in their initial list, and also realize their list is constantly changing. The message is: go to majorgeeks.com Top Freeware Picks to view their list whenever you are looking for safe, useful software that will cost you nothing. For example, I cannot conceive why anyone would pay hundreds of dollars for Microsoft Office when Libre will do exactly the same thing with its Writer (Word), Calc (Excel), Impress (PowerPoint), Draw (drawing and flowcharting), Base (Access) and Math (editing mathematics). It will even read and write in Microsoft-compatible file formats, for example, .doc or docx Word files, so you maintain compatibility.

Majorgeeks.com is really an unsung hero! You need to investigate this site and make use of it. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Happy Computing!

NPOTA (Nat. Parks on the Air) Update - Sept. 2016

de Tim, KA9EAK



It's September which means there are only four months left for the NPOTA event (<https://npota.arrl.org/index.php>.) As I write this there have been over 612,000 QSOs with over 11,000 activations of the 489 units. If you look at the stats (<https://npota.arrl.org/nps-stats.php>) you'll see that there are only 40 units that haven't been activated. This means that over 90% of the 489 units have been activated at least once, with many of those activated a number of times. I wonder if anyone at the ARRL and the NPS thought that this event would generate this level of interest.

Some significant portion of those 11,000 activations involved Amateur Radio in the view of the public at the units. What a great promotion for the hobby. My activations have drawn interest from people at the units that I've activated with the first question usually something like "what are you doing?" followed by the typical responses of either "people still do that?" or "my <fill in the blank family member> used to be an Amateur Radio operator." All the interest I've seen has been very positive. I've enjoyed doing activations as its fun to be on the other end of the pile-up. It's not like being some ultra rare DX such as Outer Swobovia but I'm not likely to travel there anytime soon so a pile-up in Wisconsin will serve. I've also enjoyed the chase as well.

While Wisconsin doesn't have any National Parks we do have five units on the list:

- Apostle Islands National Lakeshore – LK01
- Ice Age National Scenic Trail – TR05
- Ice Age National Scientific Reserve – AA11
- Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway – WR09
- North Country National Scenic Trail – TR04

Of which two, Ice Age National Scenic Trail – TR05 and Ice Age National Scientific Reserve – AA11 have multiple locations throughout the state, many of which are very near Ozaukee County in the event that you are interested in doing an activation. For all of my activations I've used my Kenwood TS-480SAT @100 Watts powered by a trolling motor battery and either my Alpha Antenna DX Sr, EARCHI end fed, or LNR EF-Quad end fed, all with good results.



Many times I've used my folding wagon to transport the entire station:

The current QSO run rate is about 76,000 QSOs per month so with four months to go the final tally will probably be just over 900,000 QSOs. Maybe there will be a push through the fall and we'll break one million QSOs for the year. Who knows?

I've visited a number of the units over the years and it's been fun to work them in this event, recalling the times that I've visited the unit in the past. With the popularity of this event, and the interest that it has generated I wonder what the ARRL is going to come up with next. There's still plenty of time to chase a few activations this fall and maybe try activation before the weather closes in. I know that I've enjoyed this event immensely.

Unsung Heroes at the Corn Roast

By Nancy Stecker, KC9FZK



I think all who were there would agree that the 2016 ORC Corn Roast was a great success. Many people have already been thanked for their hard work toward making it a success. But I want to talk about another group at the roast that has not been thanked, the women who attended the roast.

Do you fellows know what a wonderful group of women you are married to? The roast was a perfect occasion for us gals to work together, talk together and even (at least in my case) to get a new recipe or two. So I want to thank all the gals for bringing great food to pass at this year's Corn Roast and I look forward to seeing them again. Next up is the Awards Banquet, see you all there. Guys don't

forget to show the gals this article, and thank them for coming!

And those brats everyone raved about were a donation from Chuck Meyer, KC9YEP. Thank you Chuck.

2016 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend



de Bill Howe, KA9WRL

After an overcast and rainy Friday afternoon and Saturday morning for set-up, we managed to get LeFrog's 30' Tower erected and a couple of our E-Z Up Tents ready for this year's combined LeFrog/ORC Lighthouse Activation. Eventually, the weather cleared and we were able to operate for most of the weekend!

Thanks to our hosts David and Mary Bennett, we had another beautiful site overlooking Lake Michigan to operate from with the convenience of power, a storage area and a bathroom, all

important to an operation like this.

The LeFrog club's ICOM IC-9100 Transceiver proved to be worth its weight in gold as we had no problems with contacting any station that could be heard on 20 meters the entire weekend. We started "hunt & peck", and then ended up securing one frequency for operating some pretty wild pile-ups. We could barely keep up with logging during peak hours for this year's International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

After some research, I was surprised to learn that we started the Lighthouse events 9 years ago!

Not counting this year's 17 D-Star or Fusion contacts, here's a breakdown through the years:

2008 - 172 Contacts

2009 - 9 Lighthouse-to-Lighthouse Contacts, plus others. (could not locate log)

2010 - 48 Contacts

2011 - 61 Contacts

2012 - 400 + Contacts (un-confirmed)

2013 - 229 Contacts

2014 - 169 Contacts

2015 - 262 Contacts

2016 - 251 Contacts

Our HF Contacts included Canada, England, the Czech Republic and Russia. We heard Kuwait, but couldn't make the connection! One of the D-Star Contacts was Cameroon. Keep in mind that these are all "casual" operations, as this is not considered a "contest". I have no doubt that if we wanted to, we could easily double our numbers, but I feel the more serious we get, the less fun we'd have.

Lots of pictures were taken this year. Here are just a few:





73, de Bill, KA9WRL

Fall Swapfest

Sept. 23 for preparation and the event on Sept. 24

De Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR

We will need another trailer or pickup truck to transport items for sale from the barn on Friday afternoon and to return unsold items on Saturday afternoon. This will also require a couple of volunteers for manpower.

We also will need 4 volunteers for admissions (ticket sales) and 4 for parking on Saturday Sept. 24th.

If we enjoy the benefits of the club we need to volunteer to assist at events that fund the club. You can call me to volunteer at 377-6945 or sign up at the membership meeting.

Wanted and Not Wanted

There will be a large inventory of items and test equipment from the barn available for sale at the Fall Swapfest. This includes signal generators, capacitor testers, AC & DC voltmeters and ammeters, multimeters, variacs, high voltage probes, antenna, etc. etc.

PS – I will have several items of my own there for sale also – nothing for 50 cents.



Ozaukee Radio Club Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2016

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary

Chuck Curran (W9KR), President, called the meeting to order at 1930. Introductions followed.

Announcements:

Naomi (KC9YES) has installed a new antenna with the help of Skip (KA9DDN) and Art (AC9CD).

ORC name tags, long sleeve shirts, and jackets are available: speak to Dave B. (N9UNR) or Gary D. (K9DJT).

Program:

Patrick V. (W9JI) presented on Straight Key Night, a 24-hour event to celebrate CW heritage.

50/50 Drawing:

The 50/50 drawing was held by Kristian (KC9TFP) and the winning ticket was #5318.

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 – Loren and Tom continue to rebuild the shack, installing a new circuit breaker and cleaning up the rack a bit. A nearby lighting strike damaged the voter, and there's still an issue with the main receive – main heliax is good but the pigtail is not well sealed, and there's more troubleshooting to be done.

Zach Yatso (KC9ZNR), Secretary – There was a correction to the July minutes: Thank you to John Thielen (WA9KNY) helping on the Field Day Safety Committee. Apologies to John T. and John S. (W9FAD) for the mix up. The motion to accept the July minutes as corrected was made by Stan K., 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 Bill S. (W9MXQ), and carried without debate.

Committee Reports:

The ORC Corn Roast on Saturday, August 13, starts at 11:00 am (come early) 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).

Gary D. reminds us there will be a Swapfest planning meeting at Tom's house on the 24th @ 7pm. Destination Imagination volunteers will be providing the food again this year.

Bill S. encourages everyone to come out to the Lighthouse event, operating all day Saturday and Sunday morning.

Old Business:

N/A.

New Business:

Dave B. suggested the club create a profile for Amazon Smile, so the ORC can benefit through regular Amazon purchases by members.

Jim A. (K9QLP) noted that the Yahoo email reflector is having serious issues, sometimes taking days for emails to be sent out. This resulted in some scuttlebutt surrounding Saturday breakfast planning.

Adjournment:

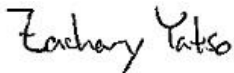
Stan K. (WB9RQR) made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dave B. (N9UNR) and the motion carried.

Attendance:

There were 37 members present and 1 guest.

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

September 14 th, 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: Tom Ruhlmann on QSL Cards
5. 50/50: Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
6. Fellowship Break
7. Auction: Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
8. Presidents Report: Chuck Curran, W9KR
9. First VP Report: Kevin Steers, K9VIN

10. Second VP Report: David Carpenter Sr., KC9REP
11. Repeater VP Report: Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY
12. Acceptance of Minutes: Zach Yatso, KC9ZNR
13. Treasurer's Report: Dave Barrow, N9UNR
14. Committee reports.
Scholarship
Fall Swapfest
Other
15. OLD BUSINESS
16. NEW BUSINESS
17. Adjournment for fellowship at John's Pizza

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The ORC Newsletter

465 Beechwood Drive
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First Class

Next ORC Meeting

Grafton Senior Citizens Center

1665 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, September 14th

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting