



# The *ORC News-*

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

Volume XXVIII

December, 2009

Number 12

## From the President

De Bill Howe II (KA9WRL)

Just weeks before Christmas, and down in the Shack, the bands were not open, not even a crack.

The XYL was sleeping, upstairs in her bed, while visions of shopping swirled 'round in her head.

I'm in my PJ's, slippers and cap, scanning the bands, for a pop, whistle or snap.

When all of a sudden I distinctly heard chatter, on 160, no less, but that didn't matter.

I swung the beam north, where the voices were stronger, and tuned my long wire, which I just had made longer.

I heard "CQ DX" from up near the pole, and calling that station was my immediate goal.

I picked up my mic and threw out my call, and he responded to me with a familiar drawl.

"I'm mobile", said he, "in a red and green sleigh, pulled by 8 reindeer and heading your way."

At once I had visions of new radios and gear, plus mono-band yagis, to start off the year.

But all of sudden I let out a scream, fell out of my bed, the whole thing a dream!

My wife never woke, just turned with a sigh, I climbed back in bed, 'cause morning was nigh.

New radios are not in MY future, I fear, but a Merry Christmas to YOU, and a Happy New Year!

## Hal Gesie, W9RXJ - SK

De Bob Krubsack (WQ9N)

Amateur radio and our radio club lost one great HAM. While in recent years his activity was limited by health issues, he was a very active DXer, experimenter, Elmer, home brewer, parts supplier, field day fiend, club member, and the list could go on. He was a serious ham. His home on Green Bay Rd north of hwy 33 had a 100 foot tower full of antennas and a 500 ft. long wire across his father's farm field.



**Hal Giese (W9RXJ) shown here in 2006 was one of the ORC founders**

When this club was founded he was there. He held various offices in the club and often served as auctioneer at club actions at the old Hill school until it burned down. He started a club newsletter way back then called "Feedback". Our club historian has some old copies. He or-

ganized hamfests with sit down dinners at the Belgium community center in the 70's.

My first "encounter" with Hal was in 1966 at field day at Bach's property down at the lake front. It was the last year that site was used before moving to Lazy Days. We worked 20 m phone and when it died at night we all sacked out. It was rather tame compared to field days that followed. Each field day saw some new sometimes outlandish antenna for 20 phone; some worked well and some not so well. The rig was a Galaxy 500 until replaced with the Drake R4B and T4X. and then by the Kenwood TS850.

Then there was Hal's invention known as the Blue Bomb. It was a 4 by 8 foot enclosure 6 feet high that mounted on his Sears trailer. It took the place of a tent for operating. It had windows, an 8 ft. long shelf for equipment and electric receptacles all across the shelf. In those days we operated 27 hours with no set up before hand. We could be on the air in 15 minutes or less. This served until it was replaced by the tent, the one he donated to the club when he gave up field day participation.



NO, THIS IS NOT A PRIVY. Bob Krubsack WA9KBB and the operating position he worked is mounted on wheels. The call letters W9LO were used to identify the Club during the contest.

**Hal created the "blue bomb" mounted on a Sears trailer for rapid deployment at field day.**

Many of our club members probably don't know Hal well since he moved from Port in 1972 when Northern Signal, where he worked at the time, moved to Minnesota. Until his health prevented it he always returned for field day. Field day was his love. Many hours were spent negotiating with W9LO on the bet for whose station would have more contacts. He operated 20 meter phone for many years, thirty plus years that I worked field day with him.

Even when his health forced him into a nursing home he never forgot his roots in our club. All his equipment, and there was a lot in that basement, was donated to the club scholarship fund. His doctor who also was a ham set up a station for him in his room at the nursing home from which some limited operating was done.

As a DXer he achieved 8 band DXCC. He has been on the DX honor roll for some time with 354 total countries confirmed, 332 on the most current countries list.

As an experimenter I don't believe he ever bought a rig that he didn't try to modify to improve its performance. His parts supply was legend. If you needed something he probably had it. Even after he moved to Minnesota he would return for the club swap fests with his supply of parts.

One of his early mentors was none other than W9CQO. I don't know how many he himself EImered but he always would help any who asked.

There are so many stories about his accomplishments, some great, some humorous, and some---well just talk to some of the old timers like W9LO, W9BCK and W9BUJ who knew him before the club was even formed. I think they would fill a few volumes.

He has been an ARRL member for over 50 years. Without him this club would probably not exist.

He will be missed!

## Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

Bob will be publishing the results of the CQWW CW contest in the January issue.

## VHF & UHF

De Todd Sprinkmann (KC9BQA)

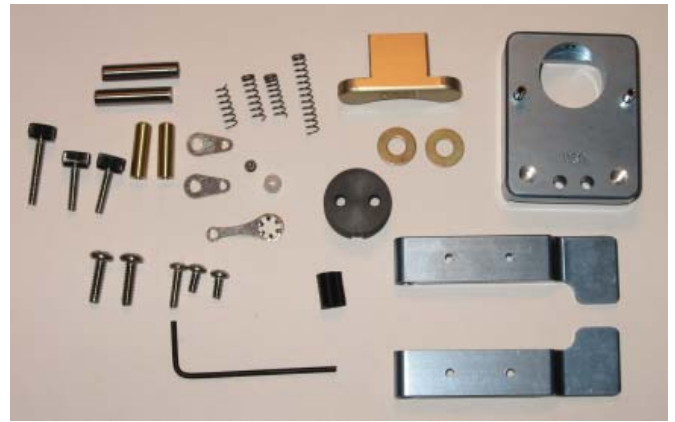
I'll be back next month with info about the ARRL Jan. VHF Sweepstakes, which is Jan 23-24th, 2010.

## The Search for a Portable QRP paddle

De Tim Boppre (KA9EAK)

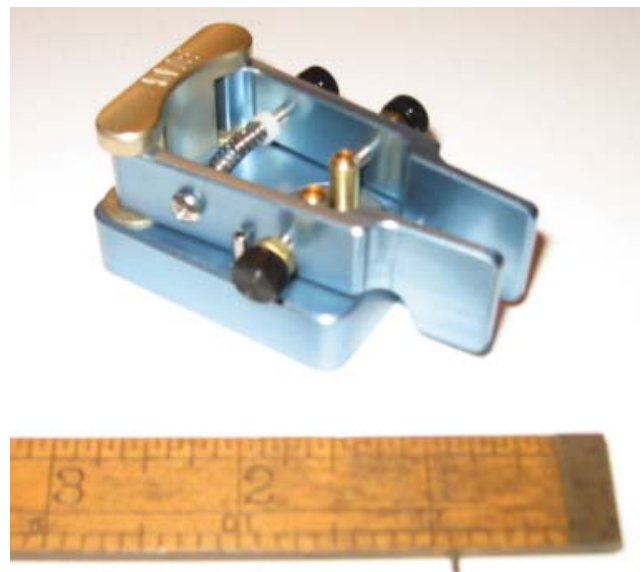
To equip my QRP station I decided I wanted a small, portable paddle. After doing some searching I came across American Morse Equipment ([www.americanmorse.com](http://www.americanmorse.com)). Doug Hauff, W6AME builds a great selection of very nice portable paddles and keys and he sells them as kits. After reading some very favorable reviews on eHam ([www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)) I decided to purchase a Porta-Paddle.

It took a bit over a week for my Porta-Paddle kit to arrive in the mail. The core components of the key are very well machined aluminum that is anodized a light blue. In the very beginning of the build instructions he recommends that you open the parts bag over a container like a pan or shoebox lid. I heartily endorse this recommendation. There are a lot of small parts just waiting to fall from your workbench and find their way to a remote corner of your shop never to be seen again. The parts that go into the key are pictured below:



Upon comparing the parts that I received with the list and pictures on the American Morse Equipment site it appeared that three brass 4-40 nuts were missing and I had three extra springs. This was no big problem and a quick trip to the hardware store resolved the issue. Since most projects require at least three trips to the hardware store I figured I was ahead on this one. Little did I know that the nuts weren't actually missing.

Assembly is very straight forward. You only need a #1 and #2 Phillips and needle nose pliers to complete assembly. A hex key is included for the single set screw. The key was assembled in short order and wired up for testing. The completed key is pictured below:



Once I had the key built I sent a quick email to Doug at American Morse Equipment thanking

him for the very nice work. I also mentioned that I had three left over springs and that the three nuts were missing. He quickly responded that he had shipped the kit to me so quickly that he hadn't updated his website. The nuts weren't missing and the springs weren't extra. They are used to replace the nuts. He told me that I have the very first issue of the Porta-Paddle II-A kit! The springs provide the tension on the adjustment thumbscrews and alleviate the need to use a small wrench to tighten the nuts upon achieving the desired adjustment.

All in all the Porta-Paddle, or more properly the Porta-Paddle II-A, is a great little key and I am very happy with it. Doug Hauff, W6AME of American Morse Products builds a nice product and provides excellent support. If you are in the market for a portable key I'd highly recommend taking a look at his offerings. I suspect that there will be a couple more of his keys ending up in my shack in time. I can't wait to couple this key up to the brand new Rockmite kit (with matching Mity Box – also by Doug) that I have sitting on the bench waiting to be built but that's a story for a future newsletter.

## MRC Swapfest at Elk's

We just couldn't help ourselves and had an early breakfast and went to the Swapfest at the Elks Club across from AES. It was a good time and it seems to have expanded from the past few years



**The main room was full of vendors and it required a few passes to be assured you had seen all the potential bargains.**

This year they occupied two rooms and there was quite a bit of "good stuff". I even got some 600 ohm open wire twin lead which I haven't seem for several years – in fact it may have

been the same reel I saw several years ago. I also got a guitar I can't play and a grinder for which I have no use so I guess it was a great Swapfest.



**The vendors overflowed into a second room and some very good bargains occurred there in that not everyone was aware of its existence.**



**Swapfests are always good for meeting old friends such as Phil from Waukesha. Ed Rate (AA9W) did well with the scholarship sales again resulting in a net gain of \$470 and loss of approximately 150 pounds of "good stuff".**

## Upcoming Events

Don't forget, Tom Murtaugh (W9VBQ) will be at the December meeting and again taking photos of all the members in attendance. He is trying to get photos of everyone for a membership photo

album. If you were not at the Nov. meeting please try to be at the Dec. meeting to make this project a success.

## ORC Tuesday Night Net

Don't forget about the ORC Informal Net on the 2 meter repeater at 7:30 PM (19:30) each Tuesday evening. It's fun to visit and catch up on everybody's activities for the past week. It also a good resource to answer any operational or technical questions you may have. This evening I even met two HAM's new to me: AA9WP, Don in Grafton and a new HAM, KC9QNH, Fred in Kewaskum. I will be listening for you next Tuesday.

## THE LOCAL CLUB RESOURCE

(From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 33, August 21, 2009. – submitted by Stan (WB9RQR)

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, shares his views on how clubs play an important role in Amateur Radio. Fusaro is Assistant Manager of the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department. He is also the ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Supervisor.

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL that allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem, regardless of the complexity. Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail, so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching. The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks whom we swore we would never be like. Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally, I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio

clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals, each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family. Think of your last family get-together and then take a look at your radio club. If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club, there is the usual cast of characters who add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help. Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs.

How often have you experienced something like this? Two hams will be in QSO -- perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair -- when another radio operator will break in with a helpful suggestion. This situation may have happened to you, or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something, the closest resource is your local club. On the surface, the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved, you will find that it is actually very productive.

The Pareto principle, commonly known as the 80-20 rule is a simple expression that 80 percent of the effects come from 20 percent of the causes. As applied in the business world, this would be 80 percent of the sales are driven by 20 percent of the customers. In a club, the percentages may be slightly different, but the fact remains that a small percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen.

This is not to suggest that 80 percent of the members do not participate, but without a "sparkplug," some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it will never work? Of course, it would be much more fun without the negative

comments, but that goes against human nature. Ever since man tried to open a coconut with a rock, someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work: "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas." The cynics of the world are an essential part of society -- and of our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.

You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time hams with a "been there, done that" attitude, asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club." Of course, we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years, we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. On the other hand, based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice also has much to offer the old-timer, even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery. The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved.

## **Editor's Comments**

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

I was very pleased when Tim Boppre (KA9EAK) submitted his article on the QRP paddle kit. It is this type of activity, the building of a kit etc. that typifies HAM's. HAM's typically are a curious lot investigating new things and activities and then sharing the result. It is the sharing of the result, in the form of an article for the other members to enjoy and from which to learn, that makes this newsletter a success. Do share your HAM passions with the group, in the form of a newsletter article and net participation, so that others will learn and not make the same mistakes.

Also, I may need an associate editor for the Feb., March and April 2010 editions of the newsletter. Call me if you can assist.

## **Minutes– Nov. 11th, 2009**

De Chuck Curran (W9POU)

### **Opening of the Meeting:**

Club President Bill Howe, KA9WRL called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The immediate topic brought up was a discussion on the changing of Nels Harvey's call, from WA9JOB to W9JOB, a call that recently became available. There seemed to be an almost even division amongst the members slightly more than half suggested W9JOB. Nels will now have to make his own decision!

### **Announcements:**

Gary WI9M shared with the group that he had been on the recent QCWA cruise. The ship was equipped with one ICOM-7600 and an ICOM IC-7200, both beautiful radios. Gary stated that a dipole was put up and also a 40 meter vertical and many of the Hams on board greatly enjoyed using the equipment, and the great cruise. It was a recommended trip for next year.

Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR, provided a report on a transformer repair he had worked on for his Hallicrafters SX-28

Ed Rate AA9W indicated that the Scholarship group will have a table at the Milwaukee Repeater Club Swapfest. This is on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge at 5555 W. Good Hope Road in Milwaukee.

### **Program:**

Our guest this evening was Brian Cieslak, K9WIS who presented an interesting program that provided information on the ARRL Logbook of the World software package. Many examples were shown on how the software can be used and many advantages that are available to all who use it.

### **Auction:**

Items were auctioned off by Stan Kaplan WB9RQR and Jon Gilmore KB9RHZ.

### **Minutes:**

The minutes as recorded by Chuck Curran W9POU, were listed in the newsletter. It was moved by Gary WI9M to accept the minutes as written, it was seconded by Kent Christiansen, N9WH. There was a 100% vote in favor of this.



**Brian Cieslak (K9WIS) gave an informative presentation on Logbook of the World which was of interest to all the DXer's.**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, went over the current state of the treasury. He provided detail on the repeater expenses and a payment to him to cover his costs during repair efforts. Dave Barrow, N9UNR, moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, this was seconded by Tom Ruhlmann, W9IPR. There was a 100% vote in favor of this.

#### **Repeater Report:**

Bill Howe KA9WRL, described the completeness of the documentation created by Nels Harvey that explains all details associated with maintaining the repeater system. Nels had provided the folder and it was passed around for all to see at tonight's meeting. It is a very well thought out and prepared set of history and technical reference information.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Jamboree on the Air**

Bill Howe KA9WRL, reviewed the J.O.T.A. with the Scouts. 32 scouts attended J.O.T.A. this year. Patches were obtained and presented to the participating Amateur Operators.

##### **Post Everything Party**

Bill Howe requested that Paul Schumacher KD9FM be contacted for the Post Everything Party activities.

##### **Swapfests**

Both the spring and fall Swapfests have people handling them and all is set at this time. As we get closer to the dates, more announcements and requests for help will be brought forward.

##### **Corn Roast/Light House Event Discussion**

Alternatives for the holding of the Corn Roast at the Port Washington Park site along with the Light House event were discussed, with a variety of alternatives being presented. At the end of the discussion, it was decided to vote on the Corn Roast moving to the Port Washington Park at the top of the cliff, and also hold the Light House event at the same time and date. Stan Kaplan WB9RQR made that motion; it was seconded by Tom Ruhlmann W9IPR. The Port Washington site won the vote with the Light House event being held on the same day. The radio equipment will be within walking distance of the Corn Roast area, with a separation of 100-200 yards being expected.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Kent Christiansen N9WH moved to adjourn; this was seconded by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR. All were in favor.

##### **Attendance**

Jon Gilmore KB9RHZ, Stan Kaplan WB9RQR, Ted Heilman, N9LLT, Kent Christiansen N9WH, Dave Barrow, N9UNR, Ed Rate, AA9W, Gary Sharbuno, WI9M, Jim Albrinck K9QLP, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, Joe Holly, AA9HR, Todd Fast, N9DRY, Mark Fielkow, KB9PXE, Chuck Curran, W9POU, Ed Frac, AA9WW, Brian Cieslak K9WIS, Patrick Sullivan KC9LRK, Ron Yokes W9BCK, Paul Purgett KC9NHD, Ron Underwood KC9DKQ, Roger Zaun W9UVV, Joe Sturmberg KA9DFZ, Kate Holt KB0SIO, Dick Holt AB0VF, Mark Tellier AB9CD, John Ansay KC9GJD, Tom Ruhlmann W9IPR, Tim Boppre KA9EAK, Dominic Boppre W9KKX, Gary Sutcliffe W9XT, Ray Totzke W9KHH, Ken Boston W9GA, Bob Truscott W9LO, Bob Krubsack WQ9N, Bill Howe KA9WRL, Tom Murtaugh W9VBQ

## **AGENDA**

*Dec. 9, 2009*

1. Call to order – Bill Howe (KA9WRL)
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.  
Scholarship Fund/Committee  
Post Everything Party
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, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 PM**