



# 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 26: 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)

Facebook: [facebook.com/orcwi](https://facebook.com/orcwi)

Volume XXXI

April 2014

Number 4

## From the President

De Gary Drasch (K9DJT)



No excuses not to venture outside this month. I certainly hope you're able to attend the April meeting. Sounds like we are going to be treated by Stan, WB9RQR, and Bill, KA9WRL, with their secret project. It should be interesting in that they have managed to keep it TRULY SECRET. I have no idea what to expect. I also want to take a moment to thank Tim Boppre, KA9EAK, for the great QRP presentation at last month's meeting. Thank you Tim!

If you are not already aware, the club has received three new members during the winter months. They are Bob Schatzman, KD9AAD, Jonathon Crawford, KD9AMW, and John Bliese of West Bend (interested in obtaining a license). Please make a point of meeting and welcoming them to ORC!

At the February board meeting, it was decided to propose a change to our bylaws relating to expenditures for flowers at a club members funeral. I failed to bring this up at the March meeting and therefore will be asking the club for a vote to budget \$400 per year pertaining to such. With that being said, I deeply regret reporting the loss of yet another valued member of the ORC. That being Terry Koller, KA9RFM. As many know, Terry was a very good friend of Bob Frank...the both having similar interests...and the both of them manning the Field Day generators. I will miss talking with them under the generator canopy while they drank their beer. Please keep their families in your prayers. While praying, do not forget to add a few more for Leon Rediske, K9GCF, and his wife Jane. Leon continues to struggle with cancer while wintering in Florida.

Here is a good reason to get out of the house on a Saturday. Attend the AES Superfest on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Both ORC and LeFrog will be represented there. It is also my understanding there's a Grand prize of a Kenwood TS590S! From the Superfest, we move into our Spring Swapfest on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Loren, N9ENR, has created a new floor plan for the event which should make things much more efficient. Hope many of you are interested in helping make this one of the best Spring Swapfest ever!

Just because warmer weather is on the horizon is not reason not to be on the air. The club has it local repeaters plus there are many HF nets and gathers available. 10 Meters has had some great openings and some of the bands which you would expect closed at night have been turning out some good DX contacts once in awhile. And if you're really desperate, you can always try Mr. 50-cents, Tom, W9IPR on the Milwaukee-Florida net at 7:45 AM on 14.290. See you on the radio!!!

73 and God bless,

Gary  
K9DJT; [k9djt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k9djt@sbcglobal.net); 262 707 4279

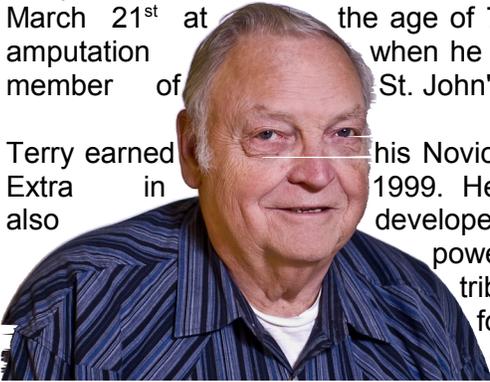
## Terry Koller, KA9RFM, SK

Terry Koller, KA9RFM, an ORC member since the mid 1980's, entered the ranks of silent keys (SK) March 21<sup>st</sup> at the age of 74. Terry was still recovering from a leg infection and subsequent amputation when he suffered a heart attack. He was a master machinist and a lifelong member of St. John's Ev. Lutheran church in Mequon.

Terry earned his Novice ticket in 1980; his General in 1981; his Advanced in 1982 and Extra in 1999. He was active on HF, VHF, PSK and very active in slow scan TV. He also developed and operated the

power generation and distribution system used for the ORC field day operations. Additionally, he was active with radio control models and brought his RC helicopters to ORC meetings on several occasions. In addition to his amateur radio and RC interests he also machined and built miniature operating steam and gasoline engines. He maintained a web site, [www.terrykoller.com](http://www.terrykoller.com) where his engines are on display – very impressive.

Terry was preceded in death by his wife Judy and is survived by his two sons Michael and Douglas (KC9PMD).



### Terry Koller KA9RFM (SK) de Nels (WA9JOB)

I was very sad to learn we had lost Terry. Terry was always there, for years, showing his engine models, caring for the power and lighting needs at Field Day, and showing off his latest flying creation. Terry was always friendly to talk to, and his machine shop skills became a favorite for several Club members needing a mount, or widget of some kind. He always had a better idea.

In November, my wife, Joyce, was transferred to Highlands re-hab at Newcastle Place in Mequon after a serious illness. I was surprised to see Terry there! He was in the lunch room, and eating with a couple of other men at his table. I stopped by, and said "Hi". That began an almost daily visit with Terry, who seemed eager to stop by Joyce's room if he saw me.

Terry explained to me all of his troubles with his leg, which had become infected. After enduring several surgeries to remove the infection, he was receiving daily injections of antibiotics to combat the disease. For nearly two months he would join us when I visited Joyce, and we would attempt to solve all of the

world's problems. I learned what caused his leg injury, and listened to his complaint that that leg wouldn't fit in the wheelchairs available there.

Every day, his son, Doug KC9PMD, would visit his dad. It was a common sight to see Terry and Doug walking down the hallway, with Terry trying to strengthen his leg while using a walker. That's how I got to know Doug. They both would stop by and visit us. I remember Terry listening for Doug on his HT. He found he could hit the .97 repeater, and even checked into the Tuesday night net once, or twice.

Terry also was able to meet my sons Dave N9NSW, and his wife Sue, Joe N9XNW, and his wife Deby, and my daughter Carol, who lives in Seattle. Terry always was a great conversationalist, and we all had some spirited discussions.

The last time I saw Terry, he was sitting in the lunch room, which otherwise was empty! I walked in to the room to greet him when I was buzzed by a helicopter! He was flying a quad copter with his elaborate controller! Terry told me he would be going home soon because the infusions were ended. I told him Joyce was also going home, and we left a day apart in early January.

Every night I would think and pray for Terry. Each night I would vow to call and check on him. Well, I never did, and now that's my regret.

Nels Harvey WA9JOB

## DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



Hey! We have seen some signs of spring! I actually did some antenna work. It was a nice warm (over 40°) day so I went out to replace a Beverage antenna transformer box with one I built using a better design. The feed point is on the north side of a steep slope. I started walking towards the feed point and found myself up to my knees in snow. Oh well, what can you do?

This month's Dxpeditions seem to be centered from the Pacific.

The month of April started out with a DXpedition to Mellish Reef, north east of Australia. This is a pretty rare one. I only have it confirmed on one band. They have been pretty active on 160-10M, CW RTTY, and SSB. Normally this should be a fairly easy path despite the distance. So far I have not been able to work them. The pile ups have been pretty heavy, and propagation does not seem to favor us. I am seeing reports they are really loud in other parts of the country, but have been very weak here. Hopefully this will change before they depart on April 9.

A couple of hams from Scotland should be showing up in Tonga by the time you read this. They will be signing the calls A35X and A35V. The plan is for them to operate 160-10M, SSB, CW and RTTY until April 18. QSL via N3SL or LoTW.

A trio of European hams will be operating from American Samoa. The call has not been announced, but it will probably be a KH8 call. They will be on from April 9-20. They will be using ground plane antennas for 40-10 meters, CW, SSB and RTTY.

There are quite a few other announced DXpeditions in April including Lesotho (7P9YY), Ogasawara (JD1BMH, JD1BLY and JD1AAI), Seychelles (S79SD) and a few others. These are single operator efforts, often vacationers operating during free times.

April is not a huge contest month. The first one is already over, the Poisson d'Avril Contest on the first day of the month. The rules are different every year. I should have mentioned it last month, but it would not have made much difference. One of the rules this year is you are disqualified if you read the rules. OK. Maybe next year.

April is a big month for state QSO parties. Texas, Mississippi and Missouri have their events the first weekend. On April 12-13 New Mexico, and Georgia have theirs. Michigan is April 19, and Florida is the final weekend. It is sometimes fun to just tune around the bands and work these guys. They appreciate the QSOs. Normally they give out their state and county and you give them a signal report and your state.

Field Day is quickly approaching. The club has lost a number of members who were key players in past Field Days. We will have to reconsider what we do this year compared to the past. Give some thought how you might be able to help out this year. Contact Ken, W9GA or me with your thoughts.

## Website Chatter

Brian – N9LOO, Webmaster

Have you checked out the ORC website lately? If not, a few changes have been made recently. The intent is to provide relevant and timely information with as little navigation as possible. I have placed several new 'slides' on the front page to bring attention to upcoming events and/or important information without having to 'look' around the site. Another feature that was added is the ability to search for content using a search box as pointed out by the arrow below. Just type in a word or phrase and the results page will provide you a link to the relevant page(s). Please note that for now, membership searches are not being provided at this time (i.e. searching for a name and/or callsign will only provide results of any article that may reference the member – not their contact page).



Give it a try and let me know what you think.

# The Computer Corner

## No. 193. A Remote Switch For Your Powerstrip

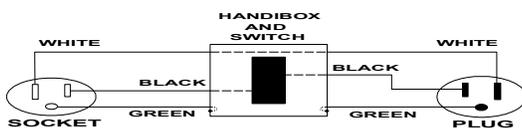
by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR  
715 N Dries Street, Saukville 53080 (262) 268-1949  
skaplan@mcw.edu



This is an idea I published over 10 years ago, and I had been using it for years prior to that. It is still a good idea. It solves part of the problem of the tangle of wires and powerstrips under your computer desk.

The problem is partially a functional one, best explained by what I do when I want to turn on my computer. Almost all wires and cables are neatly tucked out of sight on the floor at the back of my desk, near the wall. To start up, I flip one switch, mounted in a handibox attached to the leg of my desk near the floor. That turns on the monitor, the power cube that supplies the speakers, the desk lamp, and it supplies power to the computer (though the computer does not start yet). Then I press the on/off switch on the front of the computer and it begins the boot process. Those two switches start everything.

Well, you say, I can do that with my surge suppressor power strip. Yes, you can. But invariably, all power strips have the switch mounted at the end of the strip where the power cord enters. Now that might be good engineering practice – turn the power on and off right where the electrical cable enters the strip. But it sure does make for a mess under the desk, because the strip and every plug that plugs into it has to be close enough so that you can reach the switch, which makes it and the cords visible and a mess. Wouldn't it be nice to have a remote switch to do all that? A single detached switch that controls the power strip itself? Then you can stow the power strip and all associated cables away under the back part of the desk. So, here is how you can do that.



Buy a three-wire plug (it plugs in the wall), a socket (the powerstrip plugs into it), a metal handibox with switch plate, a standard SPST 15 amp switch and a few feet of three-wire power cord (AWG 16 or larger). Wire as shown. The white wire simply goes through the box without connecting to anything inside. Be sure there is a good bond between the two green wires and the metal of the handibox. When wiring the plug and socket, just remember this: the black wire goes to the gold or brass-colored screw, and the white wire goes to the silver-colored screw. Of course, the green wire goes to

the green screw. Be sure to get this all correct, for safety!

Now, mount the handibox to a conveniently reached leg of your desk. If you have a wood desk, simply screw it to a leg before you wire the switch. If your desk is metal or if you don't want to use screws, run a plastic cable tie or two through the holes in the back of the handibox and use them to anchor the assembly to the leg. Now plug the power strip into the socket and the plug into the wall. Neatly dress the power cords coming from the handibox back, out of sight, and tuck away the power strip and all other wires. Voila! Happy computing!

-----  
*"Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction."* - Pierre Pachet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872.

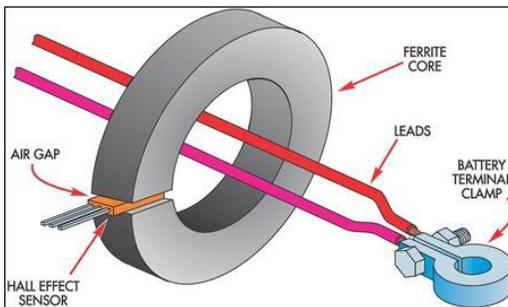
# Understanding Test Equipment©

de Gary Drasch, K9DJT

Last month we looked at making AC current measurements using a *Current Clamp* in the form of a “Current Transformer” which extends the capability of DMM (Digital Multimeter) to measure up into thousands of AC amps depending on the specifications of the clamp used. This month we’ll take a look at the yellow clamp at the right in the picture. It also measures AC current, but in addition it will measure a DC current. It is not a transformer type of device as the gray one on the left, but rather a “Hall-Effect” device. Instead of a transformer, an active component is used in this type of clamp and therefore requires a battery to power it. The “Hall-Effect” was discovered by Edwin Hall in 1879 while working on his doctoral thesis in Physics. He learned there was a voltage difference across an electrical conductor which was transverse to an electric current in the conductor and a magnetic field which is perpendicular to a current.



a



At the left is an illustration of the makings of a clamp showing the “Hall-Effect” sensor. Because we are looking at a voltage generated in reference to the current, we will be plugging this clamp, red plug into the millivolt jack on the DMM rather than the current jack. I would expect you to know the black plug goes into the negative jack. (The pictured clamp will help you plug it in correctly) We then need to interpolate the mV reading

into a current measurement. This particular clamp will generate 1 mV per Amp. Therefore, if the display shows 150 mV, you will have 150 Amps of current flow. Pretty easy! This is one reason the Fluke brand has a separate mV switch position. I will discuss the other reasons in future articles. So what do you do if you have a DMM without a mV switch position? Well, you are still able to use the clamp as long as your DMM has mV resolution, i.e., .001 display capability. Now for the same measurement, your display will not be a direct read out, but rather show .150 volts which as we know is 150 mV's, or 150 Amps when we interpolate. The need of plugging the clamp into a voltage jack, instead of a current jack, is not the only thing you need to be aware of. The clamp, which uses a 9 volt battery needs to be turned on and/or off. It also makes sense that you want to ensure the battery is good. The other thing is that when you originally connect the clamp to the DMM, but before it is placed on a wire to be measured, the clamp requires a DC “Zero” adjustment. Quite easy to do with the knob on the clamp. You just look for a Zero value on the display and then proceed to place the clamp on the wire you want to measure after adjusted.

You’re welcome to ask any questions on the “ORC Radio Chatter” forum board. I look forward to hearing from you.

73, Gary  
K9DJT

# ORC Awards Banquet

de Tom Trethewey (KC9ONY)

On March 8<sup>th</sup> of this year we had our annual Awards Banquet with an attendance of 31 people. The event took place at the American Legion Post in Grafton, WI.

The meal was prepared by Prime Minister from Thiensville, and it actually turned out to be described as very good by a number of people. Our Bartender for the evening was Jack from the American Legion, and he kept busy doing a great job as people stopped by for another drink! Music was provided by a trio who was led by Bill Howe, KA9WRL.

A change at this years event was a series of raffle prizes, which were gift certificates to a variety of restaurants, Hardware stores and other establishments. Ken Boston coordinated that activity and did a great job. Half of the people attending got a gift certificate, so it turned out in a very positive manner. A group of awards was then presented by the Team of Gary Drasch and Ken Boston. Award Winners for 2014 were:

- Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP, for Extra Effort Award
- Gary Drasch, K9DJT, for the Project of the Year
- Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, for Contester of the Year
- Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY, for Turkey of the Year
- Ken Boston, W9GA, for Ham of the Year
- Ed Rate, AA9W, for President's Award

The attending group had a great time at the Banquet, we hope to see more of you next year!



# Upcoming Events

Remember – April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Remember – ORC Spring Swapfest at Circle B on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Gentlemen,

If you would, please forward this to all DEC's and EC's for distribution to ARES members (and non-members):

**We currently have 51 days left until the race, but we only have 38 people signed up. We need at least another 22-30 volunteers!**

**I'd like to reach out again to all amateurs in Wisconsin, ARES districts and county **EC's** one more time. We have hotel rooms available for out-of-town folks. New hams are also welcome.**

**Please talk to your fellow "hams" and pass the word at club meetings and on the local nets as well.**

**For more information go to : <http://groupspaces.com/Cellcom-Marathon-ARES/>. Instructions for signing up are below.**

**THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE TO SIGN UP! YOU CANNOT SIGN UP ON THE **CELLCOM** WEBSITE FOR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS!**

To sign up for the marathon, click on the "Join Group" button in the upper right corner of the web page.

Please answer all of the questions including Hotel requirements and T-Shirt size.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, MY CONTACT INFORMATION IS BELOW.

Thank you in advance!

**Dennis L. Carr – KC9OIS**

**Cellcom**-Green Bay Marathon - (May 16-18, 2014)

Amateur Radio Communications Volunteer Coordinator

<http://groupspaces.com/Cellcom-Marathon-ARES/>

Brown County ARES/RACES

[carrd1952@gmail.com](mailto:carrd1952@gmail.com)

<http://groupspaces.com/BCARES>

Cell (920) 621-3259

# Minutes– March 12th, 2014

Brian Skrentny (N9LOO) - Secretary

President Gary Drasch, K9DJT, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Introductions followed.

## **Announcements/Show-and-Tell:**

Gary Drasch noted that Leon, K9GCF, is in home hospice from an email that Jane, KK4HQG, sent to Dave, N9UNR. Terry Koller, KA9RFM, is back in the hospital with additional health issues.

Tom, KC9ONY, mentioned that UPAF Ride for the Arts 2014 (June 1, 2014) is looking for ham volunteers. More information on the Radio Chatter website (<http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/qst/index.php?topic=128.0>) He was also offering advanced ORC Spring swapfest tickets for a discount.

Janice, KA9VVQ, participated in the WI QSO party along with a few other members.

Ken, W9GA, presented the ORC Contester of the year award to Gary, W9XT. Congrats Gary.

## **Program:**

Tim, KA9EAK, gave a very nice program on “QRPing with the RockMite”. He enjoyed building the kit that was originally featured in the April 2003 issue of QST. This kit has now been discontinued but the RockMite II is now available from Rex, W1REX, at his website ([www.qrpme.com](http://www.qrpme.com)) A copy of his program is available on the ORC website.

## **50/50 Drawing:**

Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP, ran the drawing and Stan, WB9RQR, won it. Congrats to Stan.

## **Auction:**

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, ran the auction.

## **Officer Reports:**

**President’s Report:** Gary noted that during the board meeting last month Ed Rate, AA9W, requested stepping down as Scholarship chairman. Tom, W9IPR, accepted per Ed’s recommendation and Chuck, W9KR, is also co-chair. Thanks to Ed for his many years of dedicated service to the club since the inception of the Scholarship fund.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP Report (Chuck, W9KR):** None.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report (John, W9FAD):** None.

**Repeater VP Report (Tom, KC9ONY):** The 440 repeater appears to be working fine although it’s not getting much use. The 2m system is fine and the 220 repeater is having intermittent issues that are being looked at.

**Secretary’s Report/Minutes:** Dave, N9UNR, made a motion to accept the minutes and Chuck, W9KR, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report (Dave, N9UNR):** Stan, WB9RQR, moved to accept the treasurer’s report. Bill, KA9WRL, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Spring Swapfest:** Kristian, KC9TFP, noted that it’s coming along fine.

**Awards:** Ken, W9GA, stated that the following awards were presented at last weekends awards banquet:

Gary, K9DJT, received the Project of the year award.  
Kristian, KC9TFP, received the Committee chairman of the year award.  
Ed, AA9W, received the Managing of the Scholarship award.  
Tom, KC9ONY, received the Turkey of the year award.  
Ken, W9GA, received the Ham of the year award.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

Ken, W9GA, is the new Field Day chairman as Leon, K9GCF is not able to do so due to health issues. Overall help will be needed including a new band captain for 20m as to replace Leon. Discussion also followed about the various disasters that took place and how important ham operators fill the need for emergency communications.

Stan, WB9RQR, needs to fill the remainder of the year for programs (Except April and June). Let him know if you want to give a presentation.

Bill, KA9WRL, mentioned that the club will have a table at the AES Superfest taking place April 5<sup>th</sup>. He's also working on coordinating efforts for this year's Lighthouse event in August. He has arranged using the North Point lighthouse – more details to follow.

**Adjournment:**

Stan, WB9RQR, moved to adjourn and Kristian, KC9TFP, seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM.

**Member Attendance:**

There were 35 members present plus 2 guests.

A copy of the attendance sheet is available upon request in PDF format. Please contact me via email at: [n9loo@arrl.net](mailto:n9loo@arrl.net) if you would like a copy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Skrentny, N9LOO  
Secretary

## **AGENDA**

April 9, 2014

7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew

Call to order: Gary Drasch (K9DJT)

Introductions.

Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcom-Acceptance of the Minutes - Brian Skrentny (N9LOO)  
ing events, Etc.,

Program:

50/50 – Kristian Moberg (KC9TFP)

Fellowship Break

Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)

Presidents Report – Gary Drasch (K9DJT)

1<sup>st</sup> VP Report – Chuck Curran (W0POU)

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – John Strachota (W9FAD)

Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey ( KC9ONY)

Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow (N9UNR)

Committee reports.

Other:

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Adjournment to ?

Return undeliverable copies to

### **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 9<sup>th</sup>

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting