



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

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Volume XXIX

May, 2017

Number 5

From the President

de Kevin Steers (K9VIN)



Spring has not quite sprung here in Wisconsin. What had appeared to me to be an early start to motorcycle season has stalled out, leaving us Cold, Windy, and Wet; three great reasons to delay climbing the tower, for sure.

I write this article, with nervous anticipation, as our Spring Swapfest is just a few days away. Thanks to Loren Jentz N9ENR, and the many volunteers who help in make this a memorable event. We expect to have over 100 tables in play, so I look forward to spending some quality time surveying the 600 feet of electronic goodies and parts. Unfortunately, my budget is being restricted, with the impending trip to Dayton. Thanks to all of those that volunteered to help early on Saturday, and to those whose arms I twist to help out in various ways throughout the event.

Speaking of Dayton, it is only 10 or so days away. I may have room in my car for anyone who is interested in tagging along. You would need to find a room, though, at The Baymount Inn & Suites, located at 319 E. Leffel Lane, Springfield, Ohio.

Not a lot going on in the shack other than working a few of the recent ARRL state weekend QSO parties. On the bench, I am just clearing room to look at my rotor once I get the nerve up, and the weather cooperates, to climb. I am hoping to put together a trap dipole with some vintage blue Unadilla traps that I have squirreled away, which reminds me to bring one to the Swapfest to seek advice.

Lastly, Field Day is just around the corner, so be sure to block off June 24-25 and join us at this fun club event.

DX'ing & Contesting

De Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT)



The month of May is usually when the weather starts to improve and hams start thinking of outdoor activities. It is also the month of Dayton, now Xenia. The change in venue should prove interesting.

There are two interesting things regarding propagation that tend to happen this month. The first is that sporadic E (Es) usually starts up. This provides some interesting propagation on 10 M, 6M and very occasionally 2M.

This happens when the E layer of the ionosphere becomes ionized. The E layer is between the D layer that absorbs low frequency signals during the day (the reason you only have short range on the lower bands and the AM broadcast band until after sunset), and the F layer which is responsible for most of our HF long distance propagation. Unlike the other layers, the E layer is not affected much by ultraviolet radiation from the sun like the other layers are. The exact cause is not completely understood but the most popular theory is wind shear. That is good news because with the current sunspot cycle we will not get a lot of F layer propagation on 10 meters, and almost certainly none on 6.

Because the E layer is not very high, the maximum distance is only around 1400 miles. From time to time you get multi-hop and you can get longer distances including down to South American, and across the pond to Europe and Africa.

The openings happen more often on 10 meters, less frequently on 6 and only very occasionally on 2 meters. It is important on 6M because it is one of the best propagation modes on this band except for the peak of very good sunspot cycles. The last time we had that had good F 6-meter propagation was back about 2000-2001. The next one may be a long way off. If your radio has a 6-meter position, the next few months are the time to check it out.

The longer days also mean there is more light at higher latitudes. This provides interesting propagation to the Asiatic Russian regions late at night on 20 meters. I remember spending several hours on 20 CW and working one station after another. Every time I signed with one station, 3 more would be calling me. It is something to check out.

The contest season is winding down. The big one this month is the CQ WPX CW contest. It starts at 0000 UTC on May 27 and ends 48 hours later. As usual, this is the Memorial Day weekend.

I have a hard time sitting in front of the rig if we have a nice weekend that time of the year, but I have operated it. It was the first contest I managed to make over 1000 contacts from my own station. Basically, you work anyone you hear. Multipliers are the different call sign prefixes. Being a W9, I don't attract a lot of attention, but if you have a more unique prefix you might get a good stream of callers. Points depend on where the other station is located, with contact with other countries and other continents worth more points than working your own country.

The rules are a bit complex, and if you are interested in operating you should check them out at http://www.CQ-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_ww_wpx_contest/cq_ww_wpx_contest_rules/2017_cq_ww_wpx_rules.pdf. Note that you don't have a lot of time to submit your logs. The deadline is June 2, only 5 days later.

DXpeditions are a bit light this month. There are a lot of smaller operations with single ops going to some interesting places, like North Cook Islands, Minami Torishima, Qatar, Market Reef, Fernando de Noronha to name a few. For the most part these are single op efforts and often vacation style. The best bet is to just be on and hopefully from time to time one of them will appear.

There are a couple of bigger efforts planned. Of special note is Lakshadweep Island. This is an island owned by India but counts as a separate DXCC entity. Propagation to that part of the world is tough, and most of the operations from there have not been all that well done, thus it is high on the list of most wanted from this part of the world.

This effort will use the call VU7KP from May 15-19. The ops are W4VKU and VU2PAI. They will be on 40-10 meters, CW, SSB, and RTTY. The station will include beach verticals, which can be very effective, and amplifiers. Unfortunately, this is a vacation style effort which means they will operate as time allows. If you are lucky enough to tune across them, make every effort to work them.

A larger operation will be from Eritrea from May 19-29. The plan is to operate CW, SSB and RTTY 160-10M. The callsign will be E31A.

I was looking through the folder I store these columns in. After sorting by dates it jumped out at me that this was the 5th anniversary of writing this column. I guess it proves the adage "Time flies when you are working DX!"

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 231: The Death of XP

*Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR 715 N. Dries Street Saukville, WI 53080-1664
(262) 268-1949 wb9rqr@att.net*



The time has come, folks. XP POS (Point of Sale) will still work and update, but it is no longer safe to use. Particularly with the advent of ransomware (a hot new type of malware that locks your machine until you pay a ransom – a topic for a different Computer Corner article), I really can no longer consider XP safe to use. There is too much at risk, particularly if you have it networked with other XP or non-XP machines.

If your XP is, indeed, networked with others, you can consider it the weakest link in the chain, making all the other computers in the network vulnerable to attack. In other words, if the weak-link XP machine becomes infected, the infection can more easily spread to the others in the network. Time for the law of diminishing returns to kick in. It is simply no longer worth using XP.

The only exception was clearly outlined by John Strachota (W9FAD) one morning at our Southern ORC Breakfast (there is a Northern ORC Breakfast, too). John wants to continue to use an older CAD/CAM program that will not run on anything higher than XP or even Linux. But, he is willing to pay the price. He has taken the networking card out of his XP machine, which means

he cannot access the Internet or any of his other computers with it. Anything he wants to transfer can be easily done with a floppy, CD or thumbdrive (we called this “sneakernet” back in the day when it was more common). Used in isolation this way, the XP machine cannot be directly infected, nor can it directly infect others. The only possible danger is when transferring his work to or from the XP machine by floppy, CD or thumbdrive. One can scan any of those media to make sure they are clean before the transfer. But, he must scan using an Internet-connected machine since virus definitions cannot be updated on the XP.

So, face the situation, fellow computer users, and switch your operating system, NOW. Seriously consider Linux. It looks a lot like Windows, can do all the same things (and more), and gets you away from Microsoft, which will all be *rentware* soon, anyway. (Remember you saw the term “*rentware*” first in this column ... I just coined it). Let me leave you with a clever item I copied for you in the box below. Happy computing!

Hyphenated.
Non-hyphenated.
<i>The irony!</i>

UPCOMMING EVENTS

Ozaukee Radio Club Spring Swapfest – May 6, 2017 – be there!
Membership meeting – May 10, 2017

May 10th meeting program

Pat Volkmann, W9JI will present a program/demonstration of the HRO Receiver – a WWII vintage receiver used to intercept German transmissions among other information.

How's DX?

Submitted by Ray Totzke (W9KHH)



Ahead is one of the annual May QST reports by the column conductor Rod Newark W9BRD (SK) concerning the DXHPDS gathering in Long Hall. It is May. The DXHPDS is meeting somewhere. Who will go down and report?

Working DX? Dreaming of DX? Fill your fruit jar with Old Haywire, toast those who have gone on before, and read the report of the May 1962 gathering of the DX Hoggery and Poetry Depreciation Society. Is that melody in your mind that of the Wouff Hong Song? QRM? QRN? Pile-ups? Just part of the game! Keep calling!! Ray Totzke W9KHH

How's DX?

Conducted by Rod Newkirk W9BRD (SK)

Phew!

Long Hall rumbled and creaked with the usual noisy May get-together of the DX Hoggery & Poetry Depreciation Society. Fool-hardy chairman Yul B. Sari ducked a well-aimed Rettysnitch while introducing Max R. Earsring, guest of honor for this, the tenth-anniversary DXHDPS workshop. We raised a rather threatening toast of Old Haywire in Max's direction and noted that his right arm was much more muscular than his left. He had, you see, achieved the first W/K DXCC ever scored solely by calling CQ DX.

Mr. Earsring acknowledged the crowd's acclaim by bowing graciously, just low enough to avoid the pair of whirring prop-pitch motors that went crashing through the wall behind him. Another round of O.H., a ringing chorus of the Wouff Hong Song, our DXHPDS anthem, and we lay back on our psychiatric couches ready for the business meeting. O. Howie Splatters fearfully crept forward to start proceedings:

The noodle of Numbskull O'Shell
Is cracked like the Liberty Bell
He always piles in-
To a pile-up's mad din
Just to say TNX QSL.

After they carried Howie away, Don E. Eversign recklessly faced the forum:

The pasteboards of G. Whizzo Gee
Are answered occasionally,
His average is down,
The lowest in town—
He simply abhors GMT.

The congregation's mood grew uglier. Several plumed attendants appeared on stage and began to place tree branches on the floor around Max R. Earsring as Houghton N. Halloran delivered:

The antics of Quibbler McTwist
Are funny, yet wouldn't be missed.
He cunningly fools
With certificate rules
And utopian countries lists.

The stage crew busily added old pieces of twine and newspaper to the foliage surrounding our star visitor... Max was highly pleased by all the attention, and shouts of "the high edge" came from the audience. The rising tumult forced Will U. Nockitoff to howl his recitation S9-plus, a gem mailed by W1TS whose insurance company forbade his attendance:

A **pfui!** on Itchy DuSchwein
Who gives me a pain in my spine.
He twiddles and twaddles
His gold-plated paddle
While waiting for DX to sign.

By now it was apparent the peculiar construction on stage was actually a huge bird's nest. Max Earsring leered out from the crater like some transmuted vulture while the mob kept chanting, The high edge! Tune in the high edge! Sure enough, rising in volume over the p.a. system we heard sounds of 14.348 kc. with several foreign accents calling CQ USA. This activated Max's conditioned reflexes causing him to leap up the side of his giant nest screaming, "CQ DX. CQ DX! CQCQCQCQ DX!!

The remainder of the caucus is mercifully vague in our memory, but we recall that Max R. Earsring began to raise DX. First came a soft sprinkle of hummingbird X on stage, followed by splattering of sparrow X and pigeon X. Then from the gallery came a barrage of chicken X and heavy duck X. Max, now sensing his danger, looked around for an avenue of escape but was blinded by a broadside of overripe goose X. He almost made it to safety over the rear rampart as a whizzing fusillade of huge ostrich X pinned him down. Two colossal fossilized dinosaur X administered the *coup de gras*, crashing into the mess on stage and collapsing the entire structure into abysmal depths below. The yolk was on Max — he was no longer getting out.

QST May 1962, ARRL

This Month in ORC History: 40 Years Ago

Edited by Ben Evans, K9UZ

(The following is an edited version of the minutes from the ORC meeting on May 11, 1977.)

President called the meeting to order at 19:43 local time. It was noted that a quorum was present.

The secretary read the minutes of the April 13th meeting which were approved as read.

The treasurer reported a total accountability of \$1,106.89 plus \$98.55 in patches. On motion of WA9UJK seconded by WA9UDZ and unanimously carried the treasurer's report was approved.

WA9USA reported on Dayton and Menomonie. He was favorably impressed on both gatherings.

The president asked those planning to go to the Stolte wedding to report to him so that the hostess could make proper arrangements.

WA9UDZ gave a repeater report. The repeater went down the afternoon of 11th due to trouble in the power supply. WB9PAS was at that moment working on repairs. The split sites seem to be working well, although some receiver's sensitivity has been lost. This should be restored with a pre-amp. The Sinclair antenna is due for installation soon.

Several members made their equipment needs and antenna raising party needs known to the club.

The president announced that on April 21, 1977, he sent an operational order to the activities manager concerning communications for the Vince Lombardi Memorial Open. This activity is to be coordinated by W9NHE who gave some details. W9FY stated that knows of several operators that were available. W9ATK stated that could furnish handi-talkies complete with a battery charging device. This project is to be followed up.

WA9USA announced a communications service to be done for the Blue Knight Motorcycle Rally on May 21. This will require eight operators. WA9USA will coordinate.

W9LO gave a report on field day preparations. It was determined that UHF and Novice positions would be included in the year's efforts. Field day is to be at Lazy Days camp grounds. W9LO will coordinate.

It was announced that assembly bill 702 was in committee. The thrust of this bill is to rescind the requirement that amateur equipment be permanently installed in a vehicle before and while it qualified for HAM call license plate. The committee hearing is to be May 19th. All were urged to write or call their assemblyman.

WB9PAS reported that there was no firm date for the projected fox hunt.

The program for the evening featured Dick Oberholtzer on police radar.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
SUS MUSASHI WB9BGJ

April 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ben Evans (K9UZ), Secretary

Kevin S. (K9VIN), President, called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM. All the attendees introduced themselves.

Announcements:

Dick H. (AB0VF) announced that he placed first in Wisconsin in the ARRL DX contest with 27 contacts.

Program:

Randy (KB9JMH) and T.J. gave a presentation about VIPER (Visually-Impaired Patriots Experiencing the Road). This is an annual event that involves taking blind or visually-impaired veterans on a 100+ mile group motorcycle ride. The tour starts from the VA center in Milwaukee and stops at East Troy where they have a picnic. After the picnic the group returns to the VA. An APRS station is set up in East Troy for the event. This year's VIPER ride is on August 20, 2017.

ORC members are invited to volunteer for the event in any way possible.

Auction:

Stan K. (WB9RQR) conducted the auction. Many items were sold or given away.

Officer Reports:

Kevin S. (K9VIN), President – Kristian M. (KC9TFP) will head next year's Spring Swapfest, replacing Loren J. (N9ENR) who is stepping aside after this year.

1st VP – Pat V. (W9JI) wasn't at the meeting, so there was no report.

2nd VP – Since the 2nd VP office is vacant, there was no report.

Tom T. (KC9ONY), Repeater VP – Regarding the 97 Repeater, the WAR frequency coordinator advised not to use the "free" antenna that was considered for installation because it wouldn't be efficient at that frequency. Tom has located and examined an antenna owned by someone in Richfield who bought it new but doesn't plan to use it. It was never used or installed and looked pristine so Tom bought it with his own money for \$750 in hopes that the club would reimburse him. The antenna retails for at least \$1,200.

Dave S. (KA9WXN) has a mast that might be suitable for the antenna. Jim A (K9QLP) can arrange to have a bucket truck from the Cedarburg Fire Department assist with the installation.

There is concern about the condition of the barn and the repeater shack inside it. There is a hole in the barn roof that got worse after the last big wind storm. Water leaking through the hole is dripping onto the ceiling of the repeater shack and it appears that one wall of the shack is water-damaged. Tom placed a plastic sheet above the shack as a temporary measure.

Ben E. (K9UZ), Secretary – The minutes from March's meeting is in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made, seconded, and passed without debate.

Dave B. (N9UNR), Treasurer – Motion to accept March's Income and Expense

Report was made, seconded, and carried without debate.

Committee Reports:

Spring Swapfest (by Tom, KC9ONY) – Tom has Swapfest tickets for those wanting to buy them. He is looking for a group to sell food at the Swapfest. The Grafton Destination Imagination isn't available.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Dave B. (N9UNR) – The nametag vendor the club uses has moved to Saukville, so the cost of the nametags would have to be raised to \$10 to cover delivery. Rather than have them shipped, Gary D. (K9DJT) volunteered to pick them up on the way to the meetings, since he lives in Port Washington.

Tom T. (KC9ONY) – The International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) is August 18-20, 2017, at the Kevich Lighthouse on Lake Shore Road, west of the Village of Grafton. This is an international annual ham radio event where operators set up stations in or next to lighthouses or lightships and try to contact as many other ILLW stations as possible.

Ken B. (W9GA) – Zac (KC9ZNR) requests that anyone in possession of loaner laptops please return them, as they're needed for Field Day. Ken will talk at the next meeting about using a lighter and easier-to-set-up tent for Field Day. Field Day this year will take place at the Pleasant Valley Nature Park in the Town of Cedarburg, June 24-25.

50/50 Drawing:

There was no 50/50 drawing.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Attendance:

There were 29 members and three guests present at the meeting.

A copy of the attendance sheet is available upon request in PDF format. Please contact Ben Evans via email at ben@evansengsolutions.com for a copy.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Benjamin Evans, K9UZ
Secretary

AGENDA

May 10, 2017

1. 7:00 – 7:30 PM – Network & Rag Chew
2. Call to order: Introductions. Kevin Steers (K9VIN)
3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, etc.,
4. Program: 50/50 – Kristian Moberg, KC9TFP
5. Fellowship Break
6. Auction – Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR)
7. Presidents Report – Kevin Steers (K9VIN)
8. 1st VP Report – Pat Volkmann (W9JR)
9. 2nd VP Report –
10. Repeater VP report – Tom Trethewey, (KC9ONY)
11. Acceptance of Minutes - Ben Evans (K9UZ)
12. Treasurer's report – Dave Barrow (N9UNR)
13. Committee reports.
 - A. Spring Swapfest
 - B. Other:
14. OLD BUSINESS
15. NEW BUSINESS
16. Adjournment, to John's Pizza

Return undeliverable copies to

The ORC Newsletter

465 Beechwood Drive
Cedarburg WI* 53012

First Class

Next ORC Meeting

Grafton Senior Citizens Center

1665 7th Avenue, Grafton
Wednesday, May 10th 2017

7:00 PM – doors open

7:30 – Membership Meeting