



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

Volume XXVII

December 2008

Number 12

From the President

De Mike Yuhas (AB9ON)

Where is everyone on Tuesday night? The ORC informal Tuesday night net is a longstanding tradition – but lately it seems as though all our regular participants have either forgotten or simply given up on the net. And that's a shame, since it's one of the few opportunities our members have to get together and chat. The net is informal, which means there is no script, and whoever volunteers to be the net control operator generally ends up being the net control operator. Tune your radio to 146.970 MHz on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM. Our repeater needs the exercise!

And speaking of things easily forgotten, I recently received a friendly reminder from Don Michalski, W9IXG, gently informing me that my ARRL membership had expired! How did that happen? And isn't that a little embarrassing, the president of an ARRL Special Service Club is a lapsed ARRL member. Don't worry, Don, I'll re-up soon.

And speaking of club memberships, why not hand your 2009 ORC dues payment to Treasurer Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, at this month's ORC membership meeting. Gus Gnorski will be our featured speaker, telling us tales about life on television. See you then!

Contesting

De Bob Truscott (W9LO)

I put out some bum information in the Nov. Newsletter—I said the CQ WW DX CW Contest was on Nov. 22-23. It wasn't, it actually occurred on Nov. 29-30. You can blame the folks at ARRL for this one—I used the date they pub-

lished in the Nov. QST. It appears that everyone in the contest world except me caught the error because they all showed up on Nov. 29. And from what I've read, it was one heck of a contest. Great scores, one Midwest station reported over 3,000 contacts. Perhaps I should start cross checking the dates with other sources. The only other publication I subscribe to is the National Contest Journal (NCJ), but the problem there is that they are also published by ARRL. (I dropped CQ mag about 10 years ago. Too bad, I'm sure they got it right.)

The ARRL 160 Meter Contest is Dec. 5-7. CW only, starts at 4:00 PM local time on the 5th, and runs till 10:00 AM local on the 7th. This is really a fun contest. It's amazing how well you can do with low power and virtually no antenna. Just throw a wire out the window, or load up whatever you happen to have. I'll be QRP, and will load up my 80 meter dipole as a random wire. That combination will never be a winner, but who cares? I always have a lot of fun with it. Hope to work a bunch of club members this weekend. Rules at www.arrl.org/contest.

The ARRL 10 Meter Contest is Dec. 13-14. CW, SSB, or both. Since we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle we don't know what to expect on this band, but check it out, and hope for a surprise. Rules at www.arrl.org/contest.

And here's one for the lighthouse gang in the club. It's The Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party. Dec. 20 to Jan. 4. 160-10 meters, and 6 & 2 meters. I'm not familiar with this contest, but it should be of interest to those of you who participated in the lighthouse activities last summer. Rules at www.arlhs.com.

Have fun contesting.

VHF & UHF

De Todd Sprinkmann ()

I continue to host popular nets on 144.250 USB and 146.43 FM, on Wed. and Thur. nights, respectively, starting at 8:30pm. Since this summer, I have easily worked over 200 unique calls in at least 10 different states. That is not a misprint, and it doesn't tie up repeaters.

So many hams are unaware of the possibilities beyond repeaters. Two very recent ORC check-ins to the SSB net help show what is possible.

In the last few weeks, KA9WRL and KA9EAK (along with his son W9KKX) have checked in on Wed. on 144.250, USB. As I've spun my beam antennas around the compass, looking for check-ins from near and far, they've been able to hear almost everyone I check in. Including fellows from the Stevens Point area, from the south side of Chicago, and even from NW Ohio.

This is newsworthy for two reasons. 1) It's definitely winter time and on VHF/UHF, that typically means poorer propagation. 2) Neither Bill nor Tim is using horizontally polarized antennas, which are the norm with regular SSB operations. Supposedly that cross-polarization has a 20db reduction in signal strength, yet Bill and Tim are copying a station in NW Ohio, with modest antennas at modest height. And I have a pair of 12-el beams up at 105/115', and I'm only copying the NW Ohio station S5 at best.

What's the message I get from that? Get on the air with what you have, and be open to new learning experiences. Because I surely didn't think KA9WRL and KA9EAK were going to hear 80-90% of what I heard! So I'm still learning – especially the value of getting on the air. NO RF = NO propagation – 100% of the time.

All are welcome to join the nets, or to listen along and get a feel for it. These are fun, informal nets; stay as long or as little as you like. The only purpose is to stir up activity on under-appreciated parts of our 2 meter band.

Another way to play on VHF is to get involved with contesting. The SSB and FM simplex sides of 2M, 6M, 1.25cm and 70cm really come alive for contests. (More SSB than FM) VHF contests are also quite a bit more relaxed than

HF ones. There is always room on the bands for you, and some of us experienced guys will chat with a newcomer with questions. We can ALWAYS use more VHF/UHF stations in contests.

The next contest is the January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes. Here's a link to the rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/jan-vhf-ss.html> if reading thru those rules leaves you kind of cold, don't worry. VHF contesting isn't at all difficult to get started in. If you have 6M or 2M capability, those are the two most popular bands anyway.

I'm more than willing to develop some new testers from ORC. I think it would work best if you would ask me the questions that are on your mind. Questions would be fair game during either the 144.250 USB net on Wed., or the 146.43 FM net on Thur. – both starting at 8:30pm. In fact, I need to have a bit of a practice contest, on air. That's the best idea yet. Watch the ORC email reflector on Yahoo to find out when practice contests will be.

I am available via email at sprinkies@excel.net. Can also use the Yahoo ORC reflector. If I get enough questions to indicate interest, I'll be happy to devote next month's article toward getting started in VHF/UHF contesting.

In the meantime, here are informative links: <http://www.k0nr.com/rwite/2Mssb.html> http://www.k0nr.com/rwite/vhf_contest.html

ORC Board Nominations

The nominating committee is comprised of:

Tom Ruhlmann – Chairman, Mike Yuhas and Stan Kaplan

The committee is nominating the following slate of officers for the 2009 Board of Directors. The election will be held at the ORC Annual Meeting (regular membership meeting) January 14, 2009.

President	-Bill	Howe,	KA9WRL
1st VP	-Tom	Nawrot,	AA9XK
2ndVP	-Doug	Burghardt,	N9KG
Secretary	-Charles	Curran,	WA9POU
Treasurer	-Nels	Harvey,	WA9JOB
Repeater VP	-John	Schrader,	W9NRG

Past President (automatic) - Mike Yuhas, AB9ON

Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR) will be retiring from the board. Ed Rate (AA9W) is serving as the ORC Club Trustee which is a position appointed by the board.

At the January Election, nominations can be accepted from the floor.

Mic Econo Extension Arm

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

It all started one early morning as I walked the dog. There it was. Lying on top of the neighbors trash – how could he be discarding a perfectly good extension arm just because the light fixture it supported may be failed? This was an older heavy duty arm supporting a heavy fluorescent lamp fixture and it looked perfect to use as a mic extension arm in my shack. If only I could figure how to implement it with a mike holder and durable desk mount.



The finished "mic econo-arm" at my desk.

I happened to notice that Tower Electronics had the mic holders at the Waukesha swapfest for only a dollar and bought one. The trick at this point was how to mount it to the extension arm after removal of the fluorescent light. The mic holder had a 24 turns per inch thread and that's something you won't find at the local hardware store. However, someone once told me that a

coax coupling would fit a mic holder and sure enough, it will. Sure enough, a female to female coax coupling fits perfectly. The coupling has a hole along its centerline that allows for bolting of a metal standoff that can be gripped by the extension arm clamp that originally held the light fixture.



The mic holder was available from Tower Electronics for about a dollar and the 24 t/in thread fits a coax coupling.



The adapted mic holder is shown secured in the extension arm clamp.

The next challenge was to attach the extension arm securely to the operating desk. I measured the "mounting pin" and found it to be ½ inch in diameter. With a bit of experimenting I found it to fit almost perfectly within a ½ inch gas pipe. Then it was off to the hardware store where I

purchased a 3" long 1/2" pipe nipple and a 1/2 inch pipe floor flange. The 3" long pipe nipple was screwed into the bottom side of the floor flange. Then a hole was drilled in the desk top to receive the pipe nipple and the flange was screwed to the metal desk top. Now that is a robust mount.



A 1/2" pipe nipple and floor flange is used to assemble a secure desk swivel mount for the "mic econo-arm"



The "mic econo-arm" provides great arm and back relief during contesting and rag chewing while allowing free use of the hands to tune or manually log contacts. The mic is connected to the original mic desk stand via an 8 pin microphone extension cable I bought at Dayton and this allows continued use of the desk stand PTT switch and scanning ring.

So how much did the mic "econo-arm" cost? Well, I figure only about eight or nine dollars plus we saved something from the land fill. Neat, huh?

For Sale

Scholarship fund items-Contact Ed Rate (AA9W)

KLM 20M-5 Beam \$85

KLM 15M-4 Beam \$65

Vacuum Tubes \$1 each

Heathkit Capacitance Tester model CT-1 \$15

Heathkit Ham Band Receiver Model SB-313 \$85

Heathkit SB-300 Ham Band Receiver \$ 85

Heathkit HR-1680 Ham Band Receiver \$85

Transoceanic All Band Portable Radio made by Zenith Sold by Silvertone – Collector item.

>

> Contact etrade@milwpc.com

Upcoming Events



Our program for ORC's December meeting features Gus Gnorski from Fox-6. Gus is a

former Eagle Scout, Ham Radio Operator, Vietnam Veteran, Radio personality and currently a Reporter for Fox-6 in Milwaukee.

The "Ask Gus" show, which ran for several years on Fox-6, was directed by Bill Howe, KA9WRL (now retired). Gus never used a script and only had to stop tape a total of 3 times in all those years. He'll tell you why and relay many other stories from his career in television and in the military.

Gus has interviewed Gordon West on several occasions as part of the Fox-6 Wake-Up News, typically on the Friday morning before AES's Superfest.

Club Static

There is a refurbished antenna in town. Ray Brunette refurbished his six element KLM tri-bander this past fall and then had it reinstalled atop his 110 ft section of broadcast tower. It took a commercial crane to get it up there.



Notice the open wire folded dipole made by Ray and also suspended from the tower.

Dean Jeutter (K3GGN) is an engineering prof. down at Marquette and he has a second home at Washington Island. He reports that the new BPL system on the island which is designed to provide internet over the power lines is radiating noise and creates an S9+ noise level at his QTH. This is one of the issues being addressed by the ARRL to the FCC. BPL as it is now implemented can essentially prevent use of the HAM HF bands due to the BPL illegal noise radiation.



ORC members were unloading donated equipment for the scholarship fund.

We received a donation of used equipment from the family of Thomas J. Christ (SK) who was a WWII pilot and although not a HAM, he was an avid collector of receivers from rummage sales, swapfests etc. The proceeds from the sale of this equipment will be going to the ORC scholarship fund. There was a good crew on Saturday morning to pick up the donated equipment and take it to the barn for storage until sold. The pickup crew included Ed Frac (AA9WW), Ken Boston (W9GA), Ed Rate (AA9W), Nels Harvey (WA9JOB), Chuck Curran (WA9POU), Tim Boppre (KA9EAK) and his son Dominic. Also assisting were Jim Albrinck (K9QLP), Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR) and Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR).

Wanted

Two spoke tuning wheels for SX-28 (W9IPR)
Two Speakers with 500/5000 ohm audio transformer for use with older hellicrafters SX-28 or SX-42 (W9IPR)

Thomas A. Edison Special Event Station

De Leon Rediske (K9GCF)

While sitting here in SW Florida and contemplating my navel, and pitying my Wisconsin friends that must clear off 4" in the AM, and then again in the evening. I came up with notifying them of a Special Event being held here in Fort Myers.

This special event station will be celebrating the birthday of Thomas Alva Edison---you know the guy with the light bulbs? It will happen in February---the 16th through the 20th, 8 AM to 3 PM Central time. (9 to 4 Eastern)

Our frequencies will be: 14240, 21350, 28340, Plus or Minus QRM. (mostly 14 MHz) If folks will provide a SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope) to:

FMARC
PO BOX 061183FORT
MYERS, FL 33906

You will receive a photo postcard (really nice) if U send a #10 business envelope. If you send an envelope large enough for an 8.5 by 11, you will receive the Photo Postcard plus a Certificate. Both are a collectors dream. Include enough postage to get it back! The Feb. issue of QST will have the info.

We will be operating from the HENRY FORD estate, adjacent to the EDISON Home. If you happen to contact us at the right time, you may talk with Leon K9GCF/4. Our honcho here is Stella Gurka, WB2FAU.

So if U have any questions regarding the special event, contact her at: stellagurka@embarqmail.com

We worked over 1000 Stations last year, help us to increase 20% this year. Put this week's Special Event on your calendar. (Feb 16 thru 20)

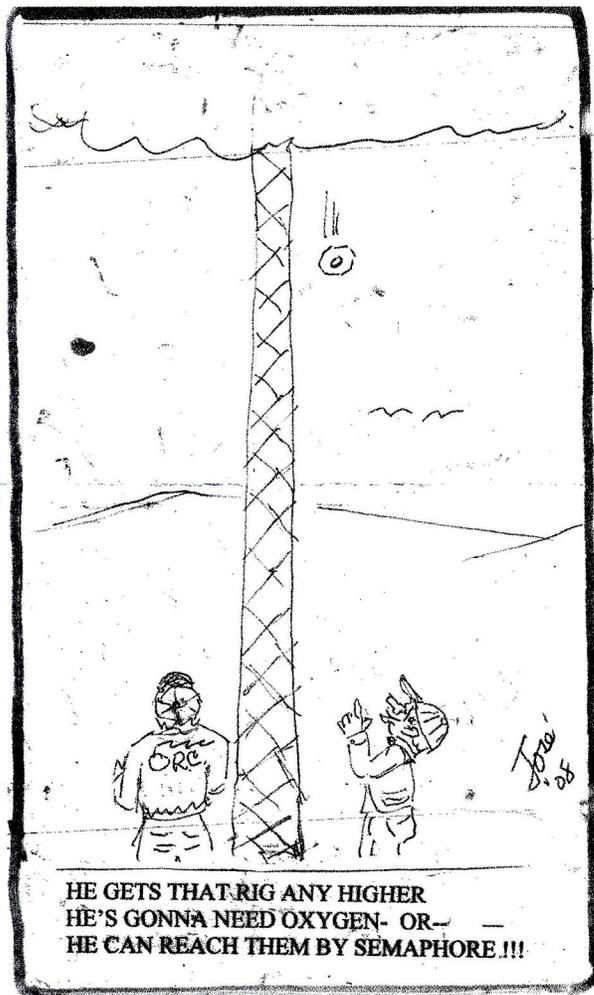
Remember the Orlando Hamcation February 13 thru 15. See U SNOW-BIRDS there!

Silent Key

Fred Eltzsch (W9QMD) died of congestive heart failure, Saturday, 22 Nov. Fred was a long time member of the ORC and OZARES. He designed and supervised the cabling to the roof mounted antennas OZARES when the Justice Center was first occupied in the early 90's and continued to consult with later installations. The funeral was for the immediate family only.

How High is High?

De Joe Sturmborg (KA9DFZ)



ARRL – Membership?

De Tom Ruhlmann (W9IPR)

About 15 years ago I started getting active in HAM radio again and for openers I joined the

American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Why? I wanted to read about what's happening and become current in terms of the newer technologies. I have never regretted it and feel it is the best \$39 I spend each year. For the past few years I have renewed my membership at the AES Superfest or one of the local Hamfest's. That's because they gave me a free publication (value \$10 to \$20) as an incentive to "reup". In any event, I encourage you to join if not already a member or "reup" in the event that you are a member. Why? For a number of reasons.

1. You will receive a subscription to QST, the premier magazine of amateur radio with various columns addressing such as things as antenna, modes of operation, product reviews, old time radio, electronic experiments and general news relevant to radio amateurs. I take QST, CQ, National Contest Journal (NCJ) and World Radio and if I could subscribe to only one it would be QST.

2. The ARRL is the only group that lobbies on behalf of the interest radio amateur radio operators. The frequencies and modes that we enjoy are privileges, not rights, which are extended to us by the US Government and by international agreements. The airwaves are a monetarily valuable asset and commercial enterprises actively attempt to gain access to our currently assigned bands for commercial and FCC profit motivated purposes. The ARRL frequency defense fund is established to support the position of amateur radio. They have been successful in the expansion of the phone portion of 75meters and eventual relocation of Latin American broadcast stations

from 40 meters and are currently addressing the BPL situation with the FCC with some success.

3. If you are a contester, the ARRL sponsors several types of contests annually and maintains and outgoing QSL service plus the "log book of the world".

4. ARRL provides WWW.arrl.org website with a variety of technical and membership information and services as well as providing an online classified ad service, product review archive, member e-mail forwarding service and generally current news of interest to amateur radio operators.

5. The ARRL provides a number of ARRL publications related to antenna, operating procedures, equipment, building techniques and projects, etc. to support the varied interest of its membership

These are a few of the reasons I have for being an ARRL member and I am sure most of these are common to the majority of members however, you may have your own and different reasons. Whatever the reason I encourage you to join the ARRL if not a member and to renew if a current member. How? Talk to Don Michalski (W9IXG) at the ARRL table at the next local swapfest (Jan. 3 in Waukesha) or join online at www.arrl.org/join

The



Column

By Stan Kaplan (WB9RQR), Column Editor

Our last meeting (20Nov) consisted of a discussion of the standard OZARES frequency list. This list is a channelized guide for programming all HTs, mobile units and home stations by OZARES members. Additionally, the MCT radios, ham radios in other Emergency Management vehicles, and those in the Emergency Communications Center are to be identically programmed. This enables rapid agreement to "go to Channel 2" (which happens to be the ORC repeater), or whatever channel is appropriate, during training or actual emergencies. If all radios are programmed identically, there is no confusion and moving frequencies is smooth. It has been some time since the list was revised, and a number of repeaters have changed or dropped out and a few errors have been found, so we agreed to an update. Skip (KA9DDN) will check out the current list and provide suggested changes. A final guide will be published and provided to OZARES members before the first of the year.

NET CONTROL SCHEDULE: OZARES nets are held each Thursday at 8:00 p.m., except on meeting nights (4th Thursdays). Both a net script and check-in list can be obtained on the OZARES web site, www.ozares.org. If you are scheduled for NCO duty and cannot make it, it is your responsibility to find a substitute. Check the complete schedule on the web site for possible hams to trade dates with, and keep the net manager (WB9RQR) informed of confirmed trades. Guests are welcome after the OZARES check-ins are complete, most especially ORC members! By the way, if you see a difference between the schedule on the website and this column, this column will always be correct, since it reflects last minute changes and substitutions. Such changes and substitutions to the website version will be in bold print here if known at the time of printing.

04 Dec **KC9FZK**

11 Dec **KC9GST**

- 18 Dec AA9W
- 25 Dec No net, no meeting this month.
Happy Holidays!
- 08 Jan KC9BKA
- 15 Jan W9BTN
- 22 Jan Meeting
- 29 Jan KA9DDN
- 05 Feb KC9FZK
- 12 Feb WD9HOD
- 19 Feb W9IPR
- 26 Feb Meeting
- 05 Mar W9KHH
- 12 Mar N9NNE
- 19 Mar WJ9O
- 26 Mar Meeting

Membership Meeting Minutes– Nov. 12th, 2008

De Tim Boppre, KA9EAK

President Mike Yuhas, AB9ON, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Attendees introduced themselves and responded to Mike’s question as to how fast they could send or receive CW. Answers ranged from -5 to as high as 30 wpm.

Announcements and bragging rights

Tom, W9IPR announced a new column for the newsletter, “Junk Box Products.” If you have ideas for this new column please send them to Tom.

Ed, AA9W announced that he could use some additional help on Saturday to move the large lot of donated radio equipment from its current location to the barn.

Program:

The program consisted of a presentation by Jeff from the Northern Cross Science Foundation on Astronomy. His subject was how telescopes have changed our understanding of the universe.

Fellowship break:

Stan, WB9RQR won the 50/50.

Auction:

Stan, WB9RQR, assisted by Ed, AA9W and Jon, KB9RHZ held the auction. There were quite a few items including a digital camera. Tom, W9IPR must have sorted out a way into Fort Knox as he allowed himself to get bid up to \$6 whole dollars for an item.

Acceptance of minutes

A motion was made by Tom, W9IPR to accept the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Nancy, KC9FZK. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's report

Nels, WA9JOB, gave the treasurer's report. A motion was made by Jim, K9QLP to accept the treasurer's report as read (subject to audit.) Bill, KA9WRL seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Repeater report

Nels, WA9JOB, reported that he and Jim, K9QLP have done some work on the tube amplifier for the 97 repeater. The solid state amplifier is currently in us and is having a significant positive effect on the electric bill. (Approximately a 40-50% reduction.)

Jim, K9QLP reported that the organizers of the Grafton Christmas parade have informed him that they will not require our assistance for the parade.

Bill, KA9WRL gave a report on JOTA. There was a nice turnout of Scouts and a lot of nice ICOM radios. Four Scouts completed their Radio merit badges.

None

New Business

Nels, WA9JOB suggested that we begin to charge for postage for newsletters that are mailed via USPS. He made the motion to charge an additional \$5 annual fee to defray the cost of postage. Tom, W9IPR seconded the motion. Dave, N9UNR made the motion to charge \$6. There was no second. After a brief discussion the motion was put to a vote by the membership and the motion carried.

The program for the December meeting will be Gus Gnor-ski of Channel 6 fame.

Attendance:

31 attendees - 27 members, and 4 guests.

Mike AB9ON, Stan WB9RQR, Ed AA9W, Kent N9WH, Nels WA9JOB, Tom W9IPR, Mark AB9CD, Jim K9QLP, Tim KA9EAK, Bill KA9WRL, Ed AA9WW, Kate KB0SIO, Ken W9GA, Julia KB9WBQ, Jon KB9RHZ, Joe AA9HR, Stan WB9RQR, Nancy KC9FZK, Patrick KC9LRK, George WB9LVI, Milan N9UJV, Gary W9XT, Mike N9JIY, Ray W9KHH, Ron W9BCk, Chuck WA9POU, Bob N9NRK, Mark KC9GST, Dick AB0VF, Cindy KA9PZG, Paul KC9NHD, Doug N9KG, Dave N9UNR, Todd N9DRY, Mark KB9PXE

A motion to adjourn was made by Dave, N9UNR and seconded by Patrick KC9LRK, the motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:33 PM.

AGENDA

December 10th, 2008

1. Call to order – Mike (WB9ON)
 2. Introductions.
 3. Announcements, Bragging Rights, Show & Tell, Upcoming events, Etc.,
 4. Program: Gus Gnorski
 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.
PEP-
Scholarship Fund Equipment Donation-
Nomination Committee –
Membership Dues -
Other:
 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 7th Avenue, Grafton

Wednesday, Dec. 10th

7:30 PM