

A warm welcome to our newest LRA members!

W9LOL Jack Becker
KD9VMO Sean Krajacic

From the board



Contact the board members via email at **Board@KR9RK.ORG**

Bylaws vote:

As you know by now, the bylaws committee has completed its task and the board has unanimously recommended that the members approve it. Per the current bylaws, this was made available to the members 30 days prior to the April 25th meeting. A vote of the members present at the April general meeting will be taken to ratify or reject the new document.

MIA committee:

By board action, a group of 8 volunteers strategically placed around the LRA coverage area has been formed to track and trace intentional interference to our repeaters. The group is called into action within minutes by text messaging and considerable data has already been collected. The network that was set up gathers signal strength data from multiple base stations. This has already provided surprisingly accurate and immediate location information without the need for directional antennas.

Doppler systems are planned to augment and improve the “last mile” data.

Several hundred dollars worth of standardized equipment such as multiple spectrum analyzers to provide accurate signal level detection and directional antennas (when needed) have been donated by a few club members to provide consistency of measurement. The board gives its thanks to those donors.

This will be a standing committee that will continually work on improving their techniques.

Allstar

We have a month of experience with the direct Allstar connection to our analog repeaters. The connection has allowed several of our members to stay in touch when in such disparate locations such as Mexico, Arizona, and Florida. The Happy Hour nets have even had a few out of state non-member check-ins, but this has not been excessive.

Repeater News

Hourly time announcements have been added to the repeaters and since the Allstar clock times are updated via Internet connections, unlike so many other repeaters the times are accurate!

We also now get summarized usage information for our analog repeaters. **Kevin, N9OIG**, sent me a recent report from a few days ago and I've attached it to the bottom of this newsletter.

Backup Generator?

Tom, KA9KJE (our ARES/RACES coordinator) asked the board to look into a way to connect a gas generator to our repeater systems for longer term backup (our current battery backup system provides for about 24 hours of low power operation). This could perhaps be done by temporarily pulling up a generator to external charger access from outside the fence. Our Technical Director, Kevin, N9OIG, is looking into our options. This will likely see further discussion at the **April general meeting April 25**

Quarterly Membership Meeting April 25

Our quarterly open membership meeting will be held at the Police station in Sturtevant, Wi as usual. Access is at the rear of the building. Doors will open at 6:30pm and the meeting will start at 7:00pm sharp.

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No April Fools Joke:

The FCC has issued another NPRM that proposes increased fees for many of our Ham Radio applications. GMRS application fees may actually be reduced. More details may be found here: <https://www.kb6nu.com/fcc-proposes-new-fees-for-amateur-radio-licenses/>

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LRA Member Activities:

Foxhunts



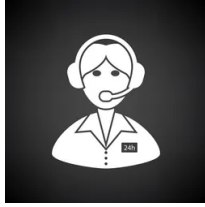
April 22 is our next foxhunt. In addition to being a training ground for our newly formed MIA committee, this is a lot of fun. Keep in touch and follow the action at KR9RK.ORG

Skywarn



Some of our western members have reported a lot of THUNDERSNOW. This is just a taste of the dangers awaiting us. Our SKYWARN net, led by **Bernie, N9AZA**, operates in conjunction with NOAA. Our first Skywarn activation was on March 31. A public service net is activated as requested by NOAA during many weather conditions. Training is required to become a weather spotter and we've posted the upcoming training schedule here: [Weather Spotter Training](#)

Happy Hour



This is a fun, largely unstructured but moderated “Un-Net” where the moderator writes the often crazy rules. Check in with your call sign and share your happy thoughts. This group meets daily on both the 442 and 147 Allstar linked repeaters at 5:00pm sharp and lasts for an hour. Be prepared to share your happy thoughts for the day. It is moderated regularly by **K9SO, K9WBT, N9BUN, and KD1Z**. Fridays and Sundays feature our “surprise” guest moderators. Join us every afternoon.

“It is strangely addictive - Tom, W9FL”.

Our moderator extraordinaire, **Bruce, K9WBT**, led us to an incredible record of 49 check-ins last week Thursday! It just keeps growing.

The beautiful FAT SQUIRREL certificate courtesy of **Dave, NP2I**, is awarded for 100 check-ins. Over 50 certificates have been awarded to date and more than 300 area hams have checked in.

Are the BabbleHeads Back?



There has been a lot of recent activity on 442MHz starting at about 5:00 am again. **N9PYA, N9GE, N9CBS, N9ZYL, K9WBT, K9RXG, W9SV, and K9SO** have been heard regularly lately.

ARES/RACES AND LRA PUBLIC SERVICE NET.



Join us every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm on our 2 meter repeater for an ARES/RACES net followed by public service announcements. Please visit [ARES/RACES website](#) for more information on how to become involved and serve the community

LAARC/LRA Joint Participation Hamfest



Don't forget that we're co-sponsoring the Lyons Freefest on June 10 this year. Let's make this event even better this year. Here's the flier for distribution to friends and family:

[Lyons Freefest June 10](#)

Saturday Breakfast



Many of our members meet for an informal breakfast every Saturday morning at 8:00am at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville. Everyone is welcome.

Winlink Wednesday



Bruce, K9WBT has been leading a Winlink Wednesday email activity. There has been growing participation. Catch Bruce on the air or anyone on the daily Happy Hour Un-Net. What's it all about? Check out Winlink here [Winlink](#)

Happy Hour Email Group on Groups.IO



We have a happy hour email reflector on Groups.IO now. Over a hundred posts last month. Join here now!

[LRA Happy Hour Net](#)

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What are our members up to now?

Kevin's Emergency Phone

I found the neatest little boxes for sale at last month's hamfest for 50c a piece. I just had to show them to **Kevin, N9OIG**. He used one of them to encase his latest Allstar headless node. **Jeff, KC9JOB** printed up a nice back cover and internal mounts for him. Pretty cool, Kevin:



Maybe next, someone will put one in an old hand crank telephone case ... just a thought.



Has there been a shift in the matrix?



Gary, N9GE, has actually purchased a Windows based computer tower last week making the huge leap away from Apple. **John, N9ZYL**, and **LaValle, W9SV**, have been successfully chasing DX on CW using their code readers and even I, **K9SO**, was caught working CY0S on 80m FT-8 !!

3D Printing



Steve, N9SEB, needed a mount for his new TinySA Ultra spectrum analyzer. **Jeff, KC9JOB** designed one up and printed it out for him. He will mount this on a portable UHF yagi for use in "last mile" direction finding.



Contesting

Mike, **K9MWG**, had a lot of fun in last month's WPX SSB contests posting almost 300 hundred contacts and this very respectable score. Here's his submission as summarized on the N3FJP Software:

The screenshot shows the N3FJP WPX Contest Log software interface. The main window is titled "Recent Contacts" and displays a table of contest entries. The "Score Statistics" panel on the right shows the following results:

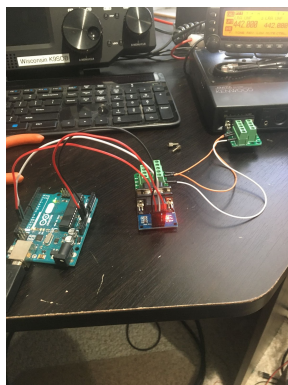
Category	Score
Total Contacts	280
Total QSO Points	559
Total Multipliers	208
Total Score	116,272
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	24
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	8

The "Recent Contacts" table includes columns for Rec, Call, Rcvd, #R, Srt, #S, Date / Time, Bnd, Mode, Country, Pfx, Pnts, and TrnID. The "Prefixes Worked" section lists 208 unique prefixes, including 4A7, 4U1, 8P5, 9A23, 9A5, 9A50, AA4, AA6, AC0, AC6, AD4, AD5, AD6, AE1, AE6, AG3, AI4, AI5, CN3, CO2, CO6, CQ3, CQ8, CR6, CT3, CV7, CY0, D4, DA0, DF7, DH1, DK8, DM6, DP4, DP7, E74, EA1, EA2, EB5, EC1, EC5, EC7, ED1, ED3, ED7, EE7, EF5, EI23, ES9, F4, FG4, FY5, G8, HA1, HA8, HG8, HI8, HK3, I4, IB9, IJ2, IO4, IO7, IR6, IY3, J68, JH8, K0, K01, K1, K3, K4, K5, K6, K7, KE6, KF1, KF3, KK3, KL7, KN7, KP3, KP4, KT5, KT7, KU1, KU2, KW7, KX2, KY7, KZ1, KZ3, LU7, LW1, LZ2, LZ5, LZ9, M6, N3, N4, N5, N6, N7, NB4, NB6, NC1, ND3, ND7, NE1, NG1, NH7, NI4, NJ7, NL7, NP2, NP3, NR6, NT5, NT6, NU5, NV9, NW8, NX8, NY6, NZ7, OE6, OK5, OM2, ON7, OT5, P33, P40, P43, PJ2, PJ4, PJ7, PR1, PR2, PW2, PW7, PX2, PY2, PY4, RA5, RT4, RU1, RW7, S53, S57, S58, SN7, SO9, SP8, TI0, TI1, TI3, TM3, TM6, TM9, TO3, TO7, UW1, V2, V31, VA1, VA3, VA5, VA7, VC3, VC6, VE4, VE6, VE7, VG2, VJ4, VK3, VK4, VP5, VY2, W1, W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, W8, WA2, WB2, WB4, WC2, WC4, WC6, WD0, WD6, WK5, WM7, WP4, WQ6, WR3, WR5, WW4, WX3, WZ4, YTS, ZF1, ZF2.

The interface also shows the last QSO logged on 2023/03/26 at 23:57:59, a bearing of 149 degrees, and a distance of 661 miles. The current band is 20 and the mode is PH.

Still Headless after all these years

I have been searching for a Kenwood D700a control head for a long time so that I may put the headless one I inherited to use. They're almost impossible to find. But I found a super deal at the Jefferson hamfest (\$45) but it came with a working radio (darn!). So I guess that didn't solve my problem as I still ended up with a headless radio. Undaunted, and using my million monkey programming army to program an Arduino, I've successfully hacked the controls and no longer need the head to operate the radio:



New Mobile Installation:

Ryan, K9NBG, with the help of his son Joe installed a new high gain antenna on his car. Big signals now



Ryan also found this great CW instructional site loaded with YouTube videos. Even experienced CW operators will find this one useful: [Great CW instruction site](#)

Satellites

LaValle, W9SV is enjoying continuing success on the satellite bands. **Gary, N9GE** has finally made his first satellite QSOs too!

A list of currently active satellites I derived from the ClubLog data base is posted as an addendum to this newsletter. Your best bets are the birds at the top of the list. The exception is QO-100 which is not visible from NA.

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DX News:

NIUE, E6. Janusz, SP9FIH and Leszek, SP6CIK are QRV as **E6AF** and E6CI, respectively, until April 9. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8. QSL via Club Log.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Archie, **EX0QKT** is QRV with a limited license and is active from Bishkek on the shore of Issyk-Kul Lake. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via R3TKT.

MAYOTTE, FH. Dom, F4IFF will be QRV as **FH/F4IFF** from Boueni from April 1 to 9. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via EB7DX.

Predicted solar flux is 135 on March 31, 130 on April 1-6, 132 on April 7-8, then 130, 132, 135 and 135 on April 9-12, then 140, 145 and 148 on April 13-15, then 150, 150, 155, 155 and 158 on April 16-20, 160 on April 21-23, then 155, 145 and 145 on April 24-26, and 135 on April 27 through May 1, then 132 on May 2-5, then 130, 132, 135 and 135 on May 6-9. (ARRL propagation bulletin)

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Stuff You Need (?) Department:

A 25 Watt Handheld Radio?

Tom, W9FL sent this one in to me:

[Buyer Beware](#)



73, and have a GREAT APRIL! Fred, K9SO, VP LRA

ADDENDA

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UHF Repeater Stats:

NODE 511681 UHF STATISTICS

Selected system state.....:

0

Signal on input.....:

NO

System.....:

ENABLED

Parrot Mode.....:

DISABLED

Scheduler.....:

ENABLED

Tail Time.....:

STANDARD

Time out timer.....:

ENABLED

Incoming connections.....:

ENABLED

Time out timer state.....:

RESET

Time outs since system initialization.....: 1

Identifier state.....: CLEAN

Kerchunks today.....: 46

Kerchunks since system initialization.....: 6475

Keyups today.....: 64

Keyups since system initialization.....: 6688

TX time today.....: 00:10:23.865

TX time since system initialization.....: 15:11:07.908

Uptime.....: 336:53:23

Nodes currently connected to us.....: 1998, 581620

User functions.....: ENABLED

Daily Average 14 days.....: 01:07.00

VHF Stats:

NODE 511680 VHF STATISTICS

Selected system state.....: 0

Signal on input.....: NO

System.....: ENABLED

Parrot Mode.....: DISABLED

Scheduler.....: ENABLED

Tail Time.....: STANDARD

Time out timer.....: ENABLED

Incoming connections.....: ENABLED

Time out timer state.....: RESET

Time outs since system initialization.....: 0

Identifier state.....: CLEAN

Kerchunks today.....: 0

Kerchunks since system initialization.....: 0

Keyups today.....: 0

Keyups since system initialization.....: 5891

TX time today.....: 00:00:00.0

TX time since system initialization.....: 12:59:23.155

Uptime.....: 400:33:48

Daily Average 16.5 hours taken at 10:40am 3/27....: .78 Hours

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Active Satellites

QO-100	Qatar-OSCAR 100 (Es'hail-2/P4A)	Geostationary	1	2023-03	294,434	33.80
RS-44	Radio Sputnik 44	LEO	2	2023-03	94,683	10.87
AO-91	AMSAT-OSCAR 91 (RadFxSat/Fox-1B)	LEO	3	2023-03	66,121	7.59
SO-50	Saudi-OSCAR 50	LEO	4	2023-03	62,621	7.19
FO-29	Fuji-OSCAR 29	LEO	5	2023-03	43,578	5.00
AO-27	AMRAD-OSCAR 27	LEO	6	2023-02	31,917	3.66
AO-92	AMSAT-OSCAR 92 (Fox-1D)	LEO	7	2023-01	24,112	2.77
IO-117	GreenCube	MEO/HEO	8	2023-03	22,711	2.61
ARISS	Amateur Radio on the International Space Station	LEO	9	2023-03	21,842	2.51
AO-7	AMSAT-OSCAR 7	LEO	10	2023-02	19,526	2.24
UO-14	UOSAT-OSCAR 14	LEO	11	2022-02	16,914	1.94
CAS-4B	CAMSAT 4B (CAS-4B)	LEO	12	2023-03	16,898	1.94
IO-86	Indonesia-OSCAR 86 (LAPAN-ORARI)	LEO	13	2023-03	14,558	1.67
CAS-4A	CAMSAT 4A (CAS-4A)	LEO	15	2023-01	11,219	1.29
PO-101	Philippines -OSCAR-101 (Diwata-2)	LEO	18	2023-03	9,548	1.10
XW-2A	Hope 2A	LEO	19	2023-03	9,434	1.08
AO-73	AMSAT-OSCAR 73	LEO	23	2023-03	5,855	0.67
XW-2C	Hope 2C	LEO	26	2023-02	5,144	0.59

JO-97	Jordan-OSCAR 97(JY1Sat)	LEO	29 2023-03 4,046	0.46
EO-88	Emirates-OSCAR 88 (Nayif-1)	LEO	31 2023-02 1,973	0.23
FO-118	CAS-5A	LEO	34 2023-03 1,395	0.16
CAS-3H	LilacSat 2	LEO	36 2023-03 950	0.11
HO-68	Hope OSCAR 68	LEO	39 2023-01 894	0.10
FO-99	Fuji-OSCAR 99 (NEXUS)	LEO	40 2023-03 852	0.10
RS-13	Radio Sputnik 13	LEO	42 2023-02 450	0.05
UVSQ	UVSQ-SAT CubeSat	LEO	43 2023-02 412	0.05
SO-41	Saudi-OSCAR 41	LEO	50 2023-02 192	0.02
RS-15	Radio Sputnik 15	LEO	51 2023-01 189	0.02
NO-44	Navy-OSCAR 44	LEO	61 2023-02 82	0.01
FO-12	Fuji-OSCAR 12	LEO	62 2023-01 62	0.01
RS-1	Radio Sputnik 1	LEO	66 2023-01 39	0.00