

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.COM

Newsletter

May 1, 2023

106 members strong!

A warm welcome to our newest LRA members!

KA9KOL - Terry W. Drews

N9FJS - Cathy M. Drews

KC9UJO - Richard Cannon

Congratulations to new member Don, KD9WRT on passing his General Class license test this past weekend at HRO.

From the board



Contact the board members via email at Board@KR9RK.COM

Bylaws vote:

The new bylaws were approved at the April quarterly meeting and took effect immediately. Minutes of the meeting will be posted when available.

A proposed amendment to the new bylaws has already been submitted. Discussion of the proposal will be included in the agenda of the July quarterly meeting.

Open Trustee position:

“Pursuant to the dual role requirements of the new bylaws I have submitted my resignation as club Trustee to the board. I will continue to serve LRA as Vice President”
- Fred, K9SO

MIA committee:

The interference committee, chaired by Steve, N9SEB, has already located one source of repeater interference. This was not intentional, but it was due to a malfunctioning crossband repeater setup.

If you are using a crossband repeater to access the LRA repeaters, please carefully monitor it and protect it from accidental use by setting up PL tones other than the ones used by the repeaters.

Allstar

A straw poll taken of the membership at the April meeting showed a very high level of satisfaction with our new Allstar repeater connections (thanks to **Kevin, N9OIG!**). One point of caution has been brought up: when connecting with the LRA repeaters, please first be sure to disconnect from all other nodes. Otherwise, those nodes will be unintentionally brought along with your device and may result in interference to normal LRA repeater operation.



Presidential duties:

The most important duty of a club President is to secure the needed volunteers to service the organization and its activities. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this and many other organizations. That is why we need YOU. Please support Dwayne and your LRA organization by volunteering your time. Contact any board member for details:

- 1) Volunteering opportunities Wisconsin Marathon 2023 on Saturday May 6th 2023/ Setup is Friday May 5th, 2023 from 6am to 130pm. Sign up @ rkares.org Handhelds Needed!!
- 2) Volunteers NEEDED for KR9RK Activities : Club Picnic, Lyons Freefest, Racine Freefest, & June 24th-25th Taste of Field Day.

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 actually accurate!

Investigation of remote UHF RX sites continues.

Kevin, N9OIG, and **Dwayne, N9PYA** took some pictures of our Kenosha Hospital receive site equipment during a recent visit there:



Quarterly Membership Meeting July 25

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

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FCC Request for Comments:

It is not widely known, but the last WARC conference approved a new international allocation on the 60m band. Although only a small allocation of 15 kHz between 5351.5 – 5366.5 kHz was eventually agreed it is the first new allocation at HF since the WARC of 1979. [We received our 12m, 17m, and 30m allocations at that time –K9SO]

The new 60m allocation will not be channelized as it is now, but that flexibility comes with severe power restrictions (9.15w ERP). US amateurs may not operate in this manner until the FCC has approved it. The ARRL has requested the change and the FCC is now requesting comments.

We currently have channelized allocations at

- Channel 1: 5330.5 kHz*
- Channel 2: 5346.5 kHz*
- Channel 3: 5357.0 kHz*
- Channel 4: 5371.5 kHz*
- Channel 5: 5403.5 kHz*

I do not know how the new allocation will affect the current 100w channel allocations. More details may be found at:

<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-advocates-for-radio-amateurs-as-fcc-proposes-changes-to-60-meter-band>

The rules of the current allocation are difficult to understand, especially in regards to CW operation: <http://www.arrl.org/60m-channel-allocation>

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Did you know?

If you operate on 60m, FCC Rules require you to keep a copy of the manufacturer's gain specifications in your station records. If you built the directional antenna yourself, you must calculate the gain and keep the results in your station records.



LRA Member Activities:

Foxhunts



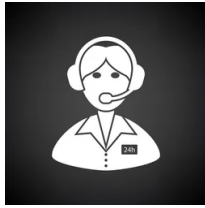
May 20 is our next foxhunt. In addition to being a training ground for our newly formed MIA committee, this is a lot of fun. Keep in touch and follow the action at KR9RK.COM. Better still, JOIN US! Contact **Matt, AF9Q** for details.

Skywarn



Our SKYWARN net, led by **Bernie, N9AZA**, operates in conjunction with NOAA. Bernie held a severe weather training net immediately following Happy Hour last week. While NOAA training is required to become an official weather spotter, anyone can participate in these nets. 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”.

Last week, **Bruce**, **K9WBT**, became the 20,000th Happy Hour “chicken”. Thanks to all who support this daily club activity.

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: Volunteers needed!



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](#). Contact Fred at VP@KR9RK.COM to volunteer.

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?

Jack, W9LOL, has posted archives of some of the popular Allstar nets:
Absolute Tech Net, Antenna Net, Allnode Net, PAPA Tech Net

To access the audio, go to w9lol.com and click on the lower-left block called "AllStar Archives"

Ryan, K9NBG tells me there's an APRS net going on ... check in here:
<https://aprsph.net/aprsthursday/>

Pete, K9PJC, cooked up 16 pounds of venison cheese pepper snack sticks this month!

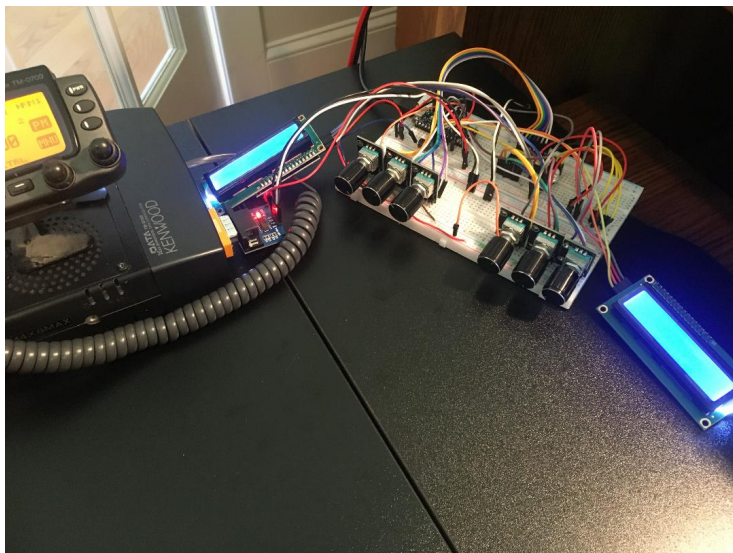




Angelo, KD9QVW, sent in a covert-looking photo of his FTM-300 radio installation in his brand new truck as he wasted no time before drilling the antenna mounting hole.

Still Headless after all these years

My control head project for my headless Kenwood D700a project has entered a new phase and we're going to PCB implementation soon. My software monkeys got the software working with 8 digital encoders, two LCD displays, 8 pushbuttons, and one 3 way switch. Just wait until you see what **Jeff, KC9JOB** has cooked in the way of packaging.



I need photos and inputs from you for this section of the newsletter. Photos from your POTA activations or volunteer work would be great examples. Send me an email at VP@KR9RK.COM or post your activity on the Happy Hour Reflector –k9so

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Other activities:

EAA Airventure 2023 Special Event Station W9ZL

The sign-up for this year's EAA Special Event Station is now open to all ARRL members. Sign up will be drawing to a close on May 13, 2023. This has to be done so the EAA can finalize their planning to accommodate us during the event.

Contact W9ZL at his web page soon as the sign-up deadline is May 13.



Contesting

Lots of state QSO parties going on in May, but no majors this month. Don't forget to check in with the Contest Calendar to see what's going on:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

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DX News:

Do Not Fear Those Solar Events!

On April 18, immediately following an electromagnetic solar event, and a few days before the follow up CME hit us on April 22, I experienced **the best DX band conditions I have ever seen in my 58-1/2 years as a ham.**

Apparently, this is common immediately after an electromagnetic storm subsides. 12m, 15m, 17m, and 20m bands were all amazing. In a period of about 3 hours, I worked **21** Chinese stations (5 CW and the rest on FT8). At one time, I had 4 Chinese stations calling me on FT-8! I had a 15 minute CW rag chew with Dale, BA4TB in Wuxi, China. 599 signals both ways.

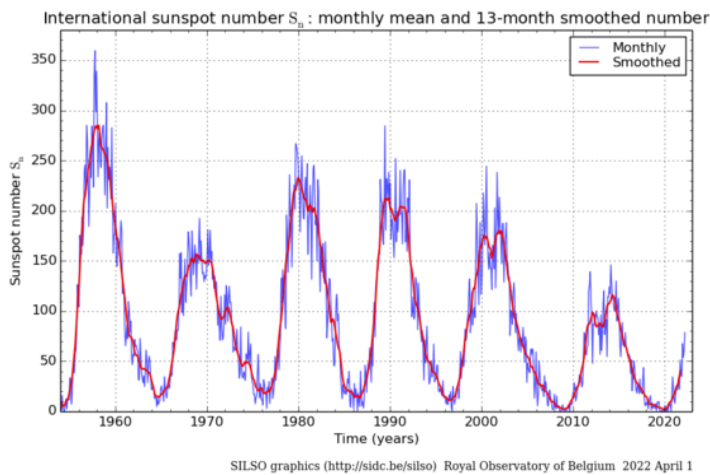
Also, all these super DX **CW** QSOs went "in da log" *that same night* (besides the 5 CW QSOs with China):

- T30UN W. Kiribati
- 9N7AA Nepal (15m)
- VR2IL Hong Kong
- 4S7AB Sri Lanka
- VU7W Lakshadweep
- FO/N1DG French Indonesia
- 9N7AA Nepal (12m)
- 3W1T Viet Nam
- 4W1A E. Timor

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Early solar peak?

There's some new science that says the next solar cycle can be better predicted by looking at the timing of the latest Termination Event. Comparing the latest prediction in the forwarded note (below) to the chart of Solar Cycles 19 to the present suggest Solar Cycle 25 could be as good as anything during our ham career lifetime (my first QSO was Oct 1964). **More importantly, get ready because Solar Cycle 25 could peak as early as this December.**



For an explanation of the Termination Event, see the following link:
<https://spaceweatherarchive.com/2021/06/11/the-termination-event/>

Predicted solar flux

Predicted solar flux over the next month is 135 on April 28-30, 140 on May 1-2, 135 on May 3-4, 140 on May 5-6, then 145, 150, 155, 160 and 165 on May 7-11, 170 on May 12-13, then 165, 160, 155, 150, 145 and 140 on May 14-19, 135 on May 20-21, 130 and 125 on May 22-23, 120 on May 24-25, then 125, 130 and 135 on May 26-28, 140 on May 29 through June 2, then 145, 150, 155, 160, and 165 on June 3-7.

Predicted planetary A index is 25, 16 and 12 on April 28-30, 8 on May 1-5, 12 and 10 on May 6-7, 8 on May 8-9, then 5, 5 and 12 on May 10-12, 5 on May 13-15, 8 on May 16-17, 5 on May 18-22, then 15 and 18 on May 23-34, and 15 on May 25-27, then 12 and 10 on May 28-29, 8 on May 30-31, then 5, 5 and 12 on June 1-3, and 5 on June 4-6.

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Stuff You Need (?) Department:

Check out MakerFocus' new ESP32 based computer, now on sale at Amazon for \$60. It features a built-in color touch screen. [M5 Core Stack2 ESP32](#)

A ton of new features are included ... even a vibrator. A lot of Ham Radio applications are already being written for this device. Thanks to **Bill, KD1Z** and **Bruce, K9WBT** for bringing this to my attention.



73,
Fred, K9SO
VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

ADDENDA

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HAMFESTS NEAR WISCONSIN (from ARRL members and LAARC newsletters):

May 6, 2023 – ARAC Hamfest Location: Superior, WI Sponsor: Arrowhead Radio
Amateurs Club Website: www.thearac.org

May 6, 2023 – Ozaukee Radio Club Spring Swapfest Location: Cedarburg, WI Sponsor:
Ozaukee Radio Club Website: www.ozaukeeradioclub.org

The DeKalb Hamfest

05/07/2023

Location: Sandwich Fairgrounds 15703 Pratt Rd. Sandwich, IL 60548

Website: <http://karc-club.org>

Sponsor: Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club

Talk-In: 146.73 minus pl-100 Simplex 146.520

Public Contact: Bob Yurs , W9ICU 1107 Commercial St. Sycamore, IL 60178

Phone: 1-815-757-3219

Email: w9icu@comcast.net

Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest

06/04/2023

Location: Mendota Tri-County Fairgrounds 503 1st. Ave. Mendota, IL 61342

Sponsor: Starved Rock Radio Club

Talk-In: 147.120+103.5 W9MKS Repeater - Simplex 146.520

Public Contact: Kurt Clausen , KB9RKU P.O. Box 198 Leonore, IL 61332

Phone: 1 (815) 830-3859

June 3, 2023 – Green Bay Hamfest Location: Green Bay, WI Sponsor: Green Bay Mike
& Key Club Website: <http://www.k9eam.org/>

June 10, 2023 – LAARC WI9ELK / LRA KR9RK FreeFest Location:

Lyons, WI Sponsor: LAARC / Lakeshore Repeaters Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/laarcradioclub/>

June 11, 2023 -

63rd Six Meter Club of Chicago Hamfest

Location: DuPage Event Center & Fairgrounds 2015 Manchester Road Wheaton, IL

Website: <https://hamfest.k9ona.com>

Sponsor: Six Meter Club of Chicago & Chicago Suburban Radio Association

Talk-In: 146.52 & 146.37/97 (107.2)

Public Contact: Paul Mielnicki , K9LH 9116 Mobile Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453

phone: 708-870-4887

June 17, 2023 – Sunshine Swapfest Location: Neenah, WI Sponsor: Fox Cities

Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://www.fcarc.club/sunshineswap.php>

July 8, 2023 – WI9SM Swap fest Location: Oak Creek, WI Sponsor: South Milwaukee

Amateur Radio Club Website: <https://southmilwaukeearc.org/>

August 12, 2023 – CVARC 2023 Hamfest Location: Chippewa Falls, WI Sponsor:

Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club Website: <https://w9cva.org/hamfest>

August 26, 2023 – Circus City Swapfest Location: Baraboo, WI Sponsor: Yellow

Thunder Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://yellowthunder.org/>

September 9, 2023 – ORC Annual Regional Fall Swapfest Location: Cedarburg, WI

Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club Website: <https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>

September 22-23, 2023 – HRO Superfest / State Convention Location: Milwaukee, WI

Sponsor: HRO Milwaukee Website: Not Provided

November 4, 2023 – ARES Conference / Wisconsin Section Convention Location:

Wisconsin Rapids, WI Sponsor: ARRL Wisconsin Section - ARES Website:

<https://wi-arrl.org/events/>

November 18-19, 2023 – Central Division Convention Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society Website:

<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>