

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc. **KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM** 

Newsletter February 1, 2024

The Lakeshore Repeater Association was first organized 49 years ago.

This month we welcome 4 new members: Steven, KC9FSV, Rita, KD9IMX, Nicholas, KD9VWC, and Michael, KD9PWV to the club!



#### From the board

Contact the board members via

email at Board@KR9RK.COM

The board welcomes our new Treasurer, **Rick, KC9UJO**, who was elected at our quarterly meeting last Tuesday night. Rick will be completing the term of **Dave, NP2I**. The full term (2 years) will be elected at the October quarterly meeting, along with the President.

Our MIA committee welcomes a new member this month (identity hidden). He has been participating in the search and pounce operations of offenders.

As you probably know, our MIA committee identified an LRA member as the person who has been interfering with the repeater operations. As a result of this, that member was expelled from the organization and banned from the use of LRA repeater equipment in accordance with our by-laws. Additionally, a warning letter has been sent to this individual from the ARRL enforcement arm (see January QST, p. 74) and they have begun additional proceedings with the FCC.

Unfortunately, these actions have done little to dissuade this individual from continuing his childish behaviors. Last week, MIA committee members RF-located the same offender and caught him in the act once again. (They're getting really good at that!) A new and separate complaint regarding this incident was filed with the FCC along with a personal phone call from the ARRL lead enforcement attorney (retired lead FCC enforcement officer) to the current FCC enforcement attorney.

These actions are gathering steam within the FCC and our perpetrator, whose name and call signs are now well known to them, is risking large \$14,000 initial fines and revocation of all of his multiple FCC licenses. If he continues his activities, he risks jail time as well. The MIA team continues to gather pages and pages of evidence. They are serious!

## Volunteering



#### **Call For Volunteers:**

Volunteers are still NEEDED for these KR9RK Activities:, Teaching session scheduler, and Taste of Field Day.

Our committees sometimes have long, very informal discussions about lots of topics, especially club activities. These are fun, on-line conversations.

If you feel left out of these conversations, it doesn't mean they're veiled in a conspiratorial veil of secrecy with secret handshakes... **IT MEANS YOU HAVEN'T VOLUNTEERED!** 

Contact any board member or committee chairperson for more information. <u>Attending</u> <u>our quarterly meetings is necessary but it is not sufficient.</u> If you don't join in, you're missing out on a lot of fun.

# **Quarterly Meeting Presentation:**

Thanks to **Greg**, **W9GTH**, who made a great presentation at the January meeting. His D-Star presentation is worth another look. I've posted it to the club shared drive and created a link to it here: <u>Club D-Star Presentation Jan 30, 2024</u>

If you'd like to present to the club at the April meeting, please contact me.

## **Breaking Repeater News!**

**The long anticipated Walworth County UHF receive site is on line!** This is not a voting site and access is via a different 114.8 PL tone. If you're noisy into the system but still hear it out by Lake Geneva, change to a 114.8 TX PL and try it out! All other settings remain the same. Thanks to **Kevin, N9OIG**, for setting this up. This amazing site is on a 180' tower sitting on 1100' elevation and can hear 25w mobiles nearly full quieting all the way to the big Lake. If you use 79.7 PL receive, you will continue to use that PL as you are still listening to the main transmitter site. Carrier RX will eliminate that minor complication.



# Quarterly Membership Meeting April 30, 2024



## **NEW HOURS! NEW LOCATION!**

Our next quarterly open membership meeting will be held at a **new location** this quarter. Doors will open at 6:30pm and **the tech talk will begin at 6:45** sharp. Members physically present and in good standing for more than 30 days may vote on issues brought up at the meeting.

We will have a 30 minute tech talk at the start of this meeting led by one of our members so **please note the change in starting time and location.** 

The business meeting will take place immediately after the tech talk.

This just in: **Dwayne has secured a new permanent meeting location for us.** I'm told that the deal is set and ready for signing... and it will be free, too! I guarantee the membership will be pleased with the new location. Good work Dwayne! Watch for his official announcement in the next few days.

# 2023 Member Awards: (photos courtesy of Bernie, N9AZA)

A plaque showing our appreciation was presented to **Steve, N9SEB** for his incredible cat-herding skills while serving as two committee chairmanships during 2023 (MIA and Bylaws committees):





Member of the Year Award for both 2022 and 2023 was presented to Matt, AF9Q:

... and lastly, **Dave**, **NP2I** was awarded a lifetime membership to LRA and a 10 year service plaque for serving as club treasurer for over a decade. While Dave wasn't surprised by the award (he was invited to the public board meeting where the board authorized the expenditure), he was surprised that his last act as Treasurer was to pay for it!





#### Foxhunts





Check out the Fox Hunting article in ON THE AIR magazine

While the January hunt had to be canceled due to weather, February 10 is our next LRA foxhunt. In addition to being a training ground for our MIA committee, this is a lot of fun. Keep in touch and follow the action at KR9RK.ORG. Better still, JOIN US! Contact **Matt, AF9Q** for details.

Check out the results and the current leaderboard at LRA Transmitter Hunts

Matt set up a new Fox Hunt Group on Groups.IO <u>https://groups.io/g/LRAFoxHunt/topics</u> Contact Matt to get set up.



**Bernie, N9AZA**, is our SKYWARN coordinator for the LRA. The winter months are a great time to get your certifications. Bernie coordinated a great, well-attended presentation to the membership in January.

Check out the National Weather Service's weather spotter site <u>HERE</u> How do I get involved?

Free SKYWARN® spotter training is <u>available online</u> through the MetEd COMET Program. Please note that there is a checkbox to tick after enrolling in the course. That will ensure the NWS receives notice that you have completed the training.

## Happy Hour, LRA Style



Going on its 4th year, this is a fun, largely unstructured but moderated "Un-Net" where the moderator writes the often crazy rules. Check in **every day** after work 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**, **KC9UJO**, **N9PYA**, **and KD1Z**. The beautiful FAT SQUIRREL certificate, courtesy of **Dave**, **NP2I**, is awarded for 100 HH check-ins and there are 68 of them decorating hamshack walls as of today.

Don't forget you can still also access the HH net via **WB9COW/R (442.850MHz) in Burlington**, both of the LRA repeaters, and of course, ALLSTAR. We look forward to the LAARC group in Elkhorn to join up soon.

The second ever HH Millenium award was presented to me in January after reaching the lofty goal of 1000 un-net check-ins. It's been fun!



## **Important LRA Dates:**

## **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 [<u>ARES/RACES</u> <u>website</u>] for more information on how to become involved and serve the community.

## **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.





## **Member Activities**



**Bruce, K9WBT,** has been leading a local Winlink Wednesday Radio Email activity. There has been growing participation. Catch Bruce on the air or anyone on the daily Happy Hour Un-Net. Bruce moderates on Thursdays. What's it all about? Check out Winlink here [Winlink].

#### Brad, N9BJB reported on his latest activities:

I've been lightly active on a few local Fusion repeaters, checking into global nets and also making some QSOs in a couple of the Wires-X rooms. I have also been helping folks out in social media world, specifically the 'Amateur Radio Operators' sub on Reddit. It seems that I'm not the only one that was confused about how everything worked when I first got into it. I've been able to help a few newer (than me) folks get their Yaesu digital systems operational.

#### Rick, KC9UJO, sent me a note about his activities:

In the last month I have been working on the following:

Inovato Quadra: Thanks to KD1Z's suggestion I purchased and have been using my Hamclock to help in my understanding of band propagation and I really like tracking the satellites. ClearNode: Working with N9OIG, I purchased a ClearNode and expect to receive it in a week or so.HF: I have made more QSO's with Eastern Europe and Latin America. I have been venturing beyond 10 and 20 Meters lately by participating on some daily nets on 40 and 80 meters. I have made some new contacts on 15 meters including the first DX station I ever worked a long time ago on 10 Meters. This is first time I worked a station on two different bands.

Up Coming Travel: Since I am away for a couple of months I needed to make sure I have all the HAM equipment I will need to work all bands. I have (3) radios with me on my trip to Florida. I brought a temporary antenna structure to stand up a Multi-band vertical antenna to work UHF/VHF. I also have brought a 49:1 EFHW antenna for HF. I have my NanoVNA and an antenna tuner to set up my over the road radio.

#### ... and **Mike, WW9X**, sent me details of his new 10m loop:

I normally use an end fed half wave EFHW antenna for HF. However, the bandwidth of the 49 to 1 transformer has trouble with 10M. So I built a full wave 10M loop antenna and tied it up in a tree outside my shack. By making it a 2 to 1 rectangle, the feed point is 50 Ohms. The actual antenna is just a wire inside the 1/2 inch PVC pipe that serves to keep the shape. The pipe in the center is just to add support. I'm not sure about transmit, but it gives 2 S units of gain on receive over the EFHW. The total cost was less than \$40.



**Tom, W9FL**, found a great deal on Motorola XPR 7550 radios. Several members picked up on that deal first announced on the HH email reflector.



Scott, W9AFB, shared a picture of his latest find, a "Moscow Muffler":

Wanted to share my latest completely unnecessary radio related purchase.

First, some background. The Russian Woodpecker was an over the horizon radar that wreaked havoc on the HF bands in the 70s and 80s. This was before my time in radio, but I'm sure others here will remember.

This YouTube presentation has a nice summary.

https://youtu.be/wB jiigRq-c?feature=shared

and the follow up describing the magic box I acquired. Well, not exactly the same box, but the US made version called the Moscow Muffler.

#### https://youtu.be/dOViKioAOK4?feature=shared

It's not much use for anything these days, but it has a nice place sitting next to my DX-160 shortwave receiver and 1989 copy of Passport to World Band Radio. Had to include an old BBC QSL card with it.



#### Scott, KD9OZG sent in this clip:

I thought maybe you would be interested in this. https://www.today.com/video/high-school-students-use-ham-radio-skills-to-contact-spac e-station-201408581756



Jack, W9LOL explained modern electrical theory to me:

**Ryan, K9NBG**, and our official LRA YOYO champion won this super YOYO prize designed by Dr. Popular himself (a member of the YOYO Hall of Fame!). I hope he'll post a demonstration video:





Working the Clipperton Island DXPedition in January was a big event for many of our members. Only about 2500 miles away, they had big signals into SE Wisconsin on most of the bands. Clipperton hasn't had an operation for many years so this was a juicy one for most of us. It was a lot of fun because a QSO was reported live on the ClubLog log streaming service.

Here's how our members did:

K9SO: Worked SSB, CW, and FT-8 on 20 band-slots (20)
WW9X: Worked FT-8 on 9 band slots (including 60m!) (9)
K9MWG: Worked SSB on 2 band slots (2)
K9WBT: Worked FT-8 on 2 band slots (2)
W9SV: Worked FT-8 on 3 band lots, CW on one, and via satellite too! (5)
W9AFB: Worked FT-8 on 6 band slots. (6)
W9GU: Worked FT-8 on 2 band slots, CW on 2 and SSB on 2 (6)

**Warren, AB1Z** reported on the contest station at W2RE in Maine. This operation is BIG! They recently traded in 26 Elecraft K3's and bought 50 FlexRadios calling the deal "A total game-changer!" Here's a picture of 13 of them after the pull:



#### Scott, W9AFB was very active this month on POTA:

I was able to get out and do some POTA activations in January. First was down at the New Munster Wildlife Area in western Kenosha county on January 10th This area has over 1,200 acres available and there are a number of places to operate from the car. One being right by the intersection of Hwy 50 and 83 north. Good for a quick POTA activate and run. This time I stayed on 15m SSB the whole time and made 69 contacts into the US, Canada, France, Spain, England, and the big surprise, French Guiana.

Next on January 24th, I was up in Milwaukee and stopped at the Hank Aaron State Trail. This is right by the Summerfest location and runs along the big lake. Since this is a trail, the station has to be located within 100 feet of the trail and there are a number of parking areas to do this. The one I picked had a nice view of the lighthouse and the partially frozen harbor. Worked 61 stations on 15m, 40m, and 20m. It was quite cold out that day, around 4 degrees. My method of activating in the winter is to blast the heat in the car the last few minutes before driving up to the parking spot and turning off the key.

After the big freeze, I was ready to head out and activate the upper HF bands since conditions have been great up there. Went out to the newest Wisconsin park, Honey Creek Wildlife area in Walworth/Racine counties on January 24th This is also a place with multiple drive up areas. This time on 10m & 15m made 34 contacts using 20w on the G90. USA, Canada, Netherlands, Azores, Spain, Denmark, Newfoundland, Germany, Belgium and Austria all made an appearance in the log.

Then I went down to the old faithful Richard Bong Recreation Area. I needed to pick up a 2024 parks pass, so it was a good excuse to get a quick activation in. 51 contacts in the log and also ran into John, AC9OT who is almost to 20 activations at that park. This is one of the many POTA awards, the Repeat Offender Activator.

Last activation for the month so far was south of the cheddar curtain at the Chain-O-Lakes State Park. Went on one of the foggy days and it was pretty neat driving through the park. I had wanted to take advantage of the good HF conditions again. Didn't work as much DX as expected on 10m, so moved to 15m, then 20 and 40m. Did manage a park to park with OE4JHW in a park near Vienna, Austria.

That's all for now. The HF bands have been great. No better time to get out of the house and activate!





W9AFB

**Fred, K9SO,** has APRS set up in the car now using an old resurrected Kenwood DM-700A. He'll be making the 8-1/2 hour drive during the daytime from Charlotte to Orlando on February 8. He may be tracked on APRS.FI (search for K9SO-9). Or just click on this link: <u>Track K9SO on APRS</u>.

Give him a call on 442.000 as he'll be operating his real Q-SO Qorners RF type station from the car (not using Allstar) all the way.

### Happy Hour Email Group on Groups.IO



We have a happy hour email reflector ("the forum") on Groups.IO now. Dozens of interesting posts last month. Join in the conversation by clicking on the link below now! You won't get spammed as you can opt to receive only one summary email per day. Get an invite here: [LRA Happy Hour Net]

## **QSL Cards of the Month**

Here are the cards received before the deadline of this month's newsletter:



## Field Day 2024

A Field Day organization committee has been formed. Our first on-line meeting will be held soon. Our members are K9SO, AC9OT, W9GTH, WW9X, KC9JOB, and KC9UJO. Let me know if you'd like to be included in the planning: <u>VP@KR9RK.COM</u>

You do not have to be on the committee in order to participate in the FD activities in June.



#### **Physics question of the day:**

## Is <u>Ultraviolet</u> Bull a higher energy drink than <u>Red</u> Bull?





## Jerry's Kids:

Jerry, N0IMJ, Elmers his 8th grade students at the Lutheran School in setting up a radio club. Except on school holidays, they get on the LRA repeaters every Friday afternoon between 2:00-3:00pm

# **Contesting Corner**



#### Tom, W9FL wrote:

I participated in the ARRL RTTY Roundup contest this past weekend.

When I participate in contests, I know I will most likely not be among the top scorers, because I do not have a superstation, and I probably can't devote a full 24 hours to operating. Although some contests, you can do the QRP class, and win in that category. But contests can be great fun, and I just try to achieve sort of a personal best for number of contacts, and entities. You can also make lots of contacts for DXCC, or WAS awards, during contests.

That being said, I made 178 RTTY contacts for a score of 11,036.

I used FLDIGI software, with my IC-7300 with an AL-80B running about 400 watts. But you can also do well with 100 watts.

My antennas are a dipole, and a Mini-beam for 20 through 10 meters.

If your hardware is set-up for FT8, you can do RTTY. RTTY is similar to FT8, but you can actually have a conversation. It is a fun and fascinating mode, but unfortunately since FT8 came into use, RTTY is somewhat rare outside of contests.

## **ARRL Straight Key activity 2024**



Send me information about your SKN activities in January.

### Wisconsin QSO Party: March 10, 2024

Be prepared: Let's put up a great club showing this year.

#### **Repeater Etiquette**

**Joining a QSO in progress.** If there is a conversation taking place which you would like to join, simply state your callsign when one user unkeys. This is the reason for having a courtesy tone: to allow other users to break into the conversation. One of the stations in QSO, usually the station that was about to begin his transmission, will invite you to join, usually before making his own transmission. Don't interrupt a focused discussion unless you have something to add to the topic at hand. (Don't break in and say "I just wanted to say HI"). Interrupting a conversion is no more polite on a repeater than it is in person.

## **ARRL Publications:**

The ARRL periodical *QST* is the main amateur radio magazine and the League represents our only political voice. You may notice the long history of our losing frequencies over the years. Support our remaining allocations by joining the League <u>HERE</u>. I'm a Life Member myself. You get digital access to all four periodicals with ARRL membership. Here are the new issues and a link to them <u>HERE</u> (ARRL members only)



# **DX News:** The HF bands have been HOT! Check out this link to DX operations planned for January: DXNow

As you may know, last year's DXPedition to Bouvet was a near bust for most of us in North America due to the landing location (there was a big mountain in the way). I was fortunate enough to work them twice via long path. If you missed out, here's another chance ... and they're going to have a specific station set up on a hill looking at NA!

Also, you won't want to miss Peter I Island ("Peter-one-island"). This would be an ATNO for me, but I'll have to wait until 2026. Check out the advanced plans for both here:

#### DXPedition Plans

A good one coming up:

FW8GC, TX8GC Team will be active from Wallis Island, IOTA OC - 054, Wallis and Futuna, 19 February - 9 March 2024. Team - LZ1GC, LZ5QZ. https://dxnews.com/fw8gc-tx8gc/

## Stuff You Need (?) Department:



Thanks to our growing list of newsletter contributors!

73, Fred, K9SO VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc. **APPENDIX:** 

Not as good as Dayton, but hey ... it's Orlando, Florida in February. About a dozen LRA members are attending. We have two resting flea market sites, one indoors and one outdoors, courtesy of Fred, K9SO for the exclusive use of LRA members.

Nearing the Dayton Hamvention in size (22,000 attendees last year):

## HamCation 2024

Come to one of the world's largest hamfest, where we pride ourselves on delivering a high-quality event to our attendees. Join us February 9-11, 2024 in beautiful Orlando, Florida for HamCation 2024.

# Hamfest 2024

Buy/Sell Amateur Radio Equipment, Electronics and Computer Gear Sunday March 17, 2024 Free Parking!

The Tri-County Amateur Radio Club invites you to Hamfest 2024 in the Activity Center building at the Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N Jackson Street, in Jefferson, WI, on Sunday, March 17, 2024. We're located centrally in Jefferson County, 30 minutes east of Madison along the beltline, or 45 minutes west of Milwaukee, just off Hwy 26, south of I-94. The event is 100% indoors, so come enjoy the Fest regardless of the weather Wisconsin may throw at us!! Vendor setup will start at 6:30 AM with the doors opening to to the public at 8 AM. On-air Talk-in will be available on the club repeater: W9MQB 145.49, negative offset, with CTCSS 123.0. Check the <u>web site</u> for detailed <u>maps and directions</u> to the event.

Vendor spots are available in advance for \$15 per 8' table; choose your own tables in advance on the Club website at <u>https://www.w9mqb.org/SwapFest/</u> using our online ordering tool.

#### Prefer to use snail mail? Download the form from

<u>https://www.w9mqb.org/HamfestFlyer2024.pdf</u>, print it out, and mail it in to the Club with a self-addressed stamped envelope and we'll find a good table for you, or just mail you tickets if that's all you need. Mail orders must be placed by March 5<sup>th</sup> to insure that we get your order and can get your tickets and table maps back to you in time. Or, save the cost and hassle of stamps and envelopes and order online.

Save 20% and time waiting in line when you buy your advance tickets online for only \$8 at <u>https://www.w9mqb.org/SwapFest/</u>. You'll get electronic tickets delivered to your mail inbox in a few minutes, so no need to worry about lost tickets! (The Postal Service NEVER loses mail, right?) Online ticketing means no waiting in long lines to purchase once the Fest opens: just print out your ticket, better yet, just show it on your smart phone, and you're inside finding cool ham radio deals!

Want to join the ham world or upgrade your license? We've got Rick Kardos (N9RK) and Team RK managing our ARRL Volunteer Examiner testing room, with tests starting at 9:30 AM. Reservations are REQUIRED to take an exam. Please email us at HamFest@W9MQB.org by Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> to schedule your time. Note that you MUST have a scheduled spot and MUST have your FRN number to take any exam; if you don't have one yet (or don't know yours), reply back to this email and one of the TCARC club members will walk you through the process.

As always, we want this to be a real celebration of Ham Radio, so we're giving away hundreds of dollars of door prizes, with prizes every hour. Your online ticket automatically enters you into the drawings, but you must be present to win. If you purchase tickets at the Fest, please take your ticket to Table 93 to enter for a chance to win radios, books, antennas, gift certificates, and more! Questions? Reply back to this email at HamFest@W9MQB.org for answers to any questions!

#### **Sterling Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society Hamfest**

#### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/17/2024 Start Date: 03/17/2024 End Date: 03/17/2024 Location: Sauk Valley Community College Gym 173 IL. Rt. 2 Dixon, IL 61021 Sponsor: Sterling Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society Type: ARRL Hamfest Talk-In: 146.850 113.8 Public Contact: Lloyd Sherman , KB9APW P.O. Box 521 Sterling, IL 61081 Phone: 815-336-2434 Email: w9mepclub@hotmail.com

#### **Tri-County WI HamFest 2024**

#### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/17/2024 Start Date: 03/17/2024 End Date: 03/17/2024 Location: Jefferson County Fair Park, Activity Center 503 N. Jackson Ave. Jefferson, WI 53549 Website: http://www.w9mqb.org Sponsor: Tri-County Amateur Radio Club Type: ARRL Hamfest Talk-In: 145.49- 123.0 Public Contact: Michael Zore , AE9MZ P. O. Box 321 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-0321 Phone: 414-455-5493 Email: Hamfest@w9mqb.org

#### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

04/13/2024 Start Date: 04/13/2024 End Date: 04/13/2024 Location: Mandt Community Center 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton, WI 53589 Website: https://w9hsy.org Sponsor: Madison Area Repeater Association Type: ARRL Hamfest Talk-In: 147.150 MHz (+600) pl 123.0 Public Contact: Paul Anderson , WB9QVV 459 N. Arthur Cir. Verona, WI 53593 Phone: (608) 354-1025 Email: pda53593@gmail.com

#### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

04/27/2024 Start Date: 04/27/2024 End Date: 04/27/2024 Location: Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Center (Milwaukee Curling Club) W67N890 Washington Avenue Cedarburg, WI 53012 Website: https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc. Type: ARRL Hamfest Talk-In: 146.97 MHz (- offset), CTCSS 127.3 Hz Public Contact: Tom Trethewey , KC9ONY W69N905 Evergreen Ct. N., #202 Cedarburg, WI 53012-1170 Phone: 262-421-6351 Email: swapfest@ozaukeeradioclub.org