



Have a happy Cinco de Mayo, celebrating the Mexican army victory over the French forces at the Battle of Puebla in 1862

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

Newsletter

May 1, 2024

The Lakeshore Repeater Association was first organized 49 years ago.

LRA Membership stats:

We are 111 members strong!

KD9ZYN - Curt and

K9TAX - Robert joined our ranks in April. Welcome Curt and Robert!



From the board

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

The April 30 membership meeting had to be canceled at the last minute due to uncontrollable circumstances. The next meeting will be on July 30. The YMCA has graciously donated meeting room spaces for many of our activities throughout the year. There is no cost to the LRA. A big thank you to them!

A closed hearing was held by the disciplinary committee on April 15 to consider an application for reinstatement of an ex-member whose LRA membership was terminated last year for gross misconduct. The committee voted unanimously not to approve his membership application and his ban from participation in LRA sponsored activities was extended indefinitely.

Volunteering



Call For Volunteers:

Volunteers are still NEEDED for these KR9RK Activities: Teaching session scheduler, Taste of Field Day, June Freefest (cosponsored with LAARC), End of Summer Picnic..

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 cone of silence with secret handshakes... IT MEANS YOU HAVEN'T VOLUNTEERED!

Contact any board member or committee chairperson for more information. <u>Attending 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 Presentations:

We now have time allotted for member presentations at our quarterly meetings due to the extended availability of our meeting room.

If you have something to share with the group, and would like to present, please contact Dwayne, Matt, or me.

Quarterly Membership Meeting



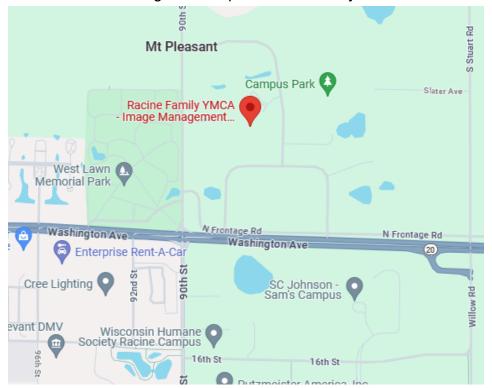
NEW HOURS! NEW LOCATION!

Our quarterly open membership meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the first month of each quarter. (January, April, July, and October). The next will be July 30 and it will be held at our **new location for** this and future quarters. Doors will open at 6:30pm and **a tech talk** (**if any**) will begin at 6:45 sharp. Per LRA bylaws, only members physically present and in good standing for more than 30 days may vote on issues brought up at the meeting.

We have allotted time for 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. YMCA

Meeting Room at 8501 Campus Drive, Mt Pleasant, WI 53406. Enter at the main entrance and check in with the front desk.

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



YMCA Healthy Kids Day

The club sponsored a booth at the YMCA Healthy Kid's Day event on April 20. Representing LRA to the community was (L to R) **Matt, AF9Q**, **Dwayne, N9PYA**, **Jerry, N0IMJ.** Not pictured behind the camera was **Rick**, **KC9UJO**.





Two future hams attending the fair.

YMCA Lighthouse Run Saturday, June 15, 2024



Ham Radio Operators have always provided communications for this event. Volunteers are needed again this year. 6AM to Noon.

LRA trivia:

Our repeater callsign, KR9RK, is a unique palindrome that reads the same forwards or backwards. This callsign hints at our repeater location along County Road KR which is exactly on the Racine/Kenosha county line hence the R-K (Racine-Kenosha). Of course our coverage includes all of Kenosha and Racine counties.

The Lakeshore Repeater Association was established 49 years ago.



LRA Member Activities:

Foxhunts



Submitted by **Matt, AF9Q**: "April Fox Hunt took place on the second Saturday of April (4/13/2024)

"This time, hunters were looking for two hidden transmitters. **Matt - AF9Q** hid with one drive up transmitter 1 and **Rick - KC9UJO** hid a walk up transmitter 2 provided by **Jeff, KC9JOB** in the park.

"Transmitter 1 was a high power radio and it was found in following order: **Matthew** - **KC9UPR** and his friend Ryan from the "Green Eggs and HAM" team, **Gene** - **WB9ZKY** with **Bonnie** - **WB9ZKX**, **Mary** - **N9ZWE** and **AI** - **N9ZWJ** from Team Haney, arrived at transmitter 1 not long after, followed by **Bernie** - **N9AZA** and **Craig** - **KD9UQE**.

"Finding transmitter 2 was a bit more challenging but it was found by teams in the following order:

Green Eggs and HAM were the first, followed by Bernie and Craig.

"Thank you guys for participating, it was fun!

Next Fox Hunt will be on the second Saturday of May 5/11/2024. We are meeting for breakfast at Meadows Family Restaurant in Franksville at 8am. Fox leaves to hide at 9am. The hunt starts at 10 and ends at noon. Transmitter frequency and other details will be provided directly before the hunt.

I appreciate "early chicken's" for the hunt as this helps me better prepare and make sure everyone has fun! Please send me an email to secretary@kr9rk.com let me know that you are interested."

Here are the pictures from the hunt provided by **Rick**, **KC9UJO**:

In the left photo we have **Bernie**, **N9AZA** and his partner **Craig**, **KD9UQE**. In the right photo is **Matt**, **KC9UPR** and his son **Nathan**.





Two unidentified hunters who were certainly "outstanding in their field"



Don't forget to mark your calendars and attend the LYONS Freefest on Saturday, June 8. This is co-sponsored by LAARC and LRA radio clubs.

Sat June 8,	6:00am -	Lyons WI Annual	Riverview Park	1588 Mill St. Lyons, WI
2024	11:00am	FREE FEST		53105



Bernie, N9AZA, is our SKYWARN coordinator for the LRA. Spring is here and Bernie's already called the weather spotter net into operation. Be sure to join him. **Storm damage from hail is real!** This is a picture of a home just south of Charlotte taken last week and the hail stones that caused the damage:



An Allstate adjuster told me he had over 100 claims from this storm alone.



Happy Hour, LRA Style









The "UN-NET" is hatching many more "Chickens" almost every day. **A new record** was set last month when K9SO, as moderator, logged in 61 participants blasting away at the old record of 54.

Incidentally, **Tom, N9BUN**, started this "Chicken" thing. Everyone used to jump in and say "Check-in" very fast. Tom started to say "Chicken" and it caught on.

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 74 of them decorating hamshack walls as of today.

Millennium certificate #4 has been issued to John Hines, KD9PLL.

Congratulations go out to John for 1000 HH check ins!

Internet problems, K9SO

I continue to have Internet access problems at Q-SO Qorners. I can access and transmit OK (downloads), but I need at least a 1 Mbps upload speed to hear solid return audio and I'm getting a fraction of that. As I am in NC for a while, it seems I may be off the air until I get back to Wisconsin as the technician says I need a new cable drop and modem.

ARES/RACES AND LRA PUBLIC SERVICE NET.





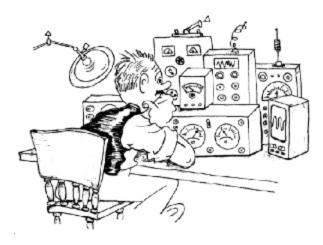
Join us every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm on our 2 meter repeater for an ARES/RACES net followed by public service announcements. Please visit [ARES/RACES website] for more information on how to become involved and serve the community.

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

Tom, W9FL, got his new KW ACOM amplifier. He had to install a new 240v outlet in his hamshack, but as a retired electrician, that was a slice of cheese.

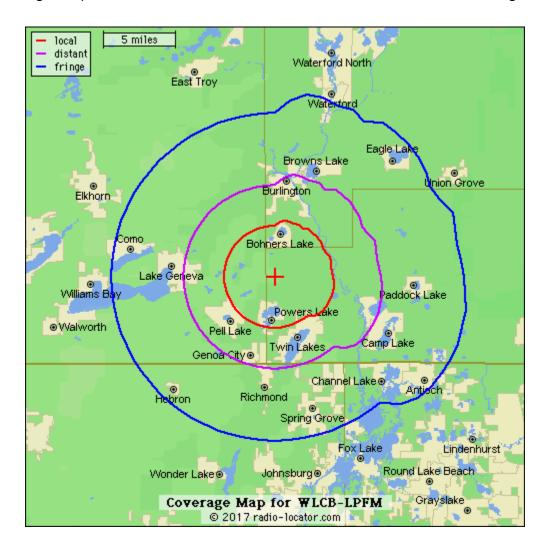


QRO: The way to go!

I took delivery of my new LDMOS 2KW rated German SS amplifier in April too (I ordered it at the Orlando Hamcation back in February). I hesitate to call a German amplifier SS but it is. It was intended to be used here at the NC station, but unfortunately they delivered it to Q-SO Qorners when I wasn't there. Fortunately, my neighbor was able to secure the porch pirate bait before it was too late. I'll have my Ameritron (pre-MFJ) 1.2KW amp ALS-1306 for sale soon.



Speaking of my neighbor, if you're interested in broadcast FM radio DXing, he operates a licensed low power FM broadcast station callsign **WLCB** on 101.5 MHz just down the road from me in Slades Corners. Discussions are underway to move the transmitter higher up the hill to a Q-SO Qorners tower. Here's his current coverage map:



His antenna is only at 20 feet and is down in the valley below Q-SO Qorners. Changing the installation requires complicated FCC filings.

Jason, K9QKL installed a new tower base at his new home. He used 99 80lb bags 8000lbs of concrete and 650lbs of water to make the mix! The pour took around 2 hours. Anchor bolts are 1"x36"

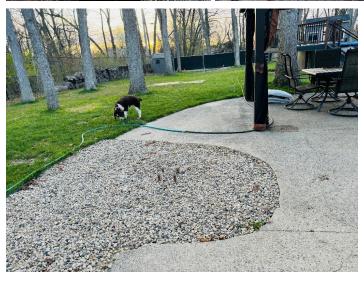
The hole ended up being 3x3x7'. Digging that hole was a chore!

> In attendance to help was Greg (soon to be licensed), **Bruce, K9WBT, K9QKL, John, N9UUO**, (and his son Peter), and **Brad, K9WNG**.

Greg (soon to be licensed) inspected the mixer to make sure it was empty and **Jason**, **K9QKL** is shown vibrating the air pockets out of the mix after the pour:

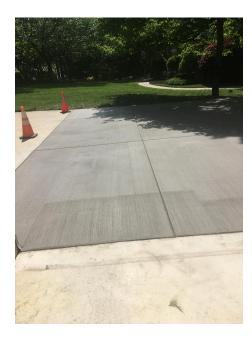






The four oversized 36" J bolts that will hold the tower are all that remain in view. Jason will wait 30 days for the concrete to cure before he mounts the tower. What a nice job!

K9SO: I played with concrete this month down in NC too, but alas, no tower base. The previous owner damaged a 4" drainage pipe that ran underneath the driveway and it caused a bad underwash that ultimately caused the slabs to sink and crack:





John, AC9OT, drove down to Indianapolis for the April 8 total eclipse and took some eclipse pictures. I have a nephew with a big house near there and I was down near Indy too at a family gathering. John's pix are better than mine so I'll post his. I have to say it was the experience of a lifetime and the skies were perfectly clear.

Jeff, KC9JOB, took some snapshots just using only his cellphone camera:

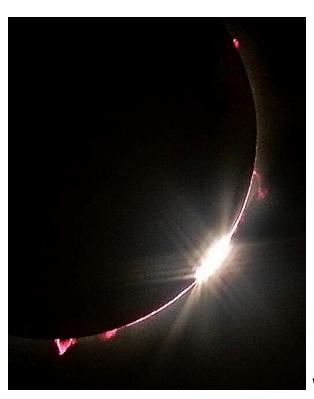


Here's a nice shot from **John**, **AC9OT**:

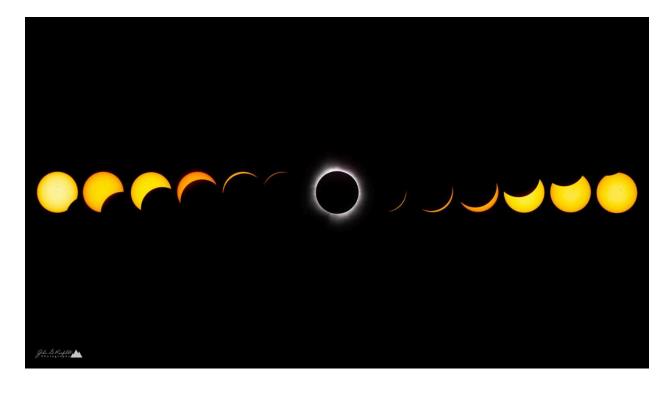


Note the small solar prominence at the bottom. At times, several were visible around the perimeter during totality.

Mike, WW9X, who also made the trip to Indy sent me this magnified view and a time lapse shot. I'm told these weren't flares, but "prominences". Several of these could be seen with the naked eye (without attenuator glasses) at totality.



WOW!



K9SO: I got my Kenwood D700A with the missing head to work on Packet last month and I can easily check into **Bruce's K9WBT** Winlink Wednesday activity now via **Dan, WX9EMS'** 2m packet link just down the road from me.



Dan, WX9EMS, also retired his snowblower attachment this month, waiting for a more demanding season:



I had a CW POTA QSO on 20m with **John, AC9OT** from NC. We were able to diagnose a slight "chirp" on his signal to be the result of operating with a low battery. That's now fixed and I can attest to his clean signal. A small change in frequency of a Morse code CW tone from the desired frequency, due to poor stability in the RF oscillator, is known as **chirp**, and in the R-S-T system it is reported by an appended letter 'C' as in "UR RST IS 579C"

We experienced a local power outage at our repeater site on April 19 during Happy Hour. Dwayne, N9PYA put the repeaters into emergency battery mode and we terminated the HH for that evening.

Michael, KM6RRS, our most distant member from Palm Desert, California, shared his famous loaded baked potato secret recipe:

- 1. Wash 2 potatoes
- 2. Stick fork in each several times
- 3. Microwave potato 4 min 30 sec
- 4. Spray potato with olive oil and cover skin with salt-pepper
- 5. Air fry 400 degrees for 31 min turning half way
- 6. Cross cut each potato and squeeze ends to make pouch
- 7. Add butter and and use fork to smash butter into potato
- 8. Add real bacon bits and shredded cheddar cheese
- 9. Scoop sour cream on top
- 10. Spread chopped green onions on top.



Looks to me like he already ate one of them before he took this picture! Isn't the recipe for two potatos Michael?

Absolute Tech Net

I received the following information from Bill, KD1Z.

"[This] might be of interest to you. This is a net [Absolute Tech Net -ed] that I have learned from, it starts at 6:00PM on Tuesday's. FM 38 does link in for the Net through Allstar, normally.

Jack, W9LOL, also records this Net for later playback. He in addition, records the Allnode Net on Monday's at 8:00, available through ALLStar. You may find Jack's recordings on these 2 net plus 3 others, via his QRZ Page. This [is] a great service Jack, Thank you.

Another great source to listen to these types of Nets is through a phone and computer App called Broadcastify. Before I had a Clearnode for ALLStar, Broadcastify was my way to listen.

I go in through Dodropin. Below is my Favorite List from Broadcastify. As you can see there are many other stations to listen to on this App, this [is] only my favorite list. Good listening! The Allnode Net is on Monday at 8:00PM. I have Heard our Lakeshore Repeater Technical Director, **Kevin N9OIG**, answer question to the Net many times. "



Jack, W9LOL, records these nets at W9LOL.COM



Bruce, K9WBT, has been leading a local Winlink Wednesday Radio Email activity. There has been growing participation lately with a record turnout last week. 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]. It is certainly a challenge to beat **Bill, KD1Z** for the first checkin spot.

Latest check ins:

In order of appearance:

KD1Z @ 00:00 On the mark.

N9OIG

WB9COW

W9LOL

W0CBP

K9SO

KD9WAN

KC9HYY

N9UUO

WX9EMS

K7EDM

K9PJC

K9WNG

N9NMR

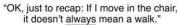
N9FSE

K9WBT (NCS)

Is your call missing?

My dog Tucker:







He sure enjoyed his first snow!

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]

Amateur Extra Class License ... new question pool:

ZCZC AG04
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 4 ARLB004
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT February 16, 2024
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB004
ARLB004 Errata to the 2024 - 2028 Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released errata for the new 2024 - 2028 Element 4 Extra Class Question Pool, which goes into effect on July 1. The errata includes minor question changes, the removal of one question, and one modified graphic.

These updates are reflected in the new downloadable files, dated January 31, 2024.

The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at https://www.ncvec.org/ for updates to the question pools.



Taste of Field Day, June 22, 2024

A Field Day organization committee has been formed. Three organizational on-line meetings have already been held and it is really coming together. Our members are **K9SO, AC9OT, W9GTH, WW9X, KC9JOB, N9OIG, 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 on June 22. The "Taste" is only 5 hours long (12:00 - 5:00pm) at Shelter 1, Bong.

Last Month, the FD committee visited the site at Richard Bong State Park, shelter #1 which has been reserved for our sole use and paid for by an anonymous benefactor. The site is nearly perfect and we were all excited about it. About half of the pavilion is enclosed. All of it is under roof. If we have high winds and rain, we can be indoors where all of our equipment will be protected. Additionally, the toilets are only 200 feet away and we have a fire pit at our disposal (due to insect controls, we must purchase wood on-site). We have the shelter until 11:00pm if anyone wants to stay that long.

The "Taste" will feature at least one local HF 100w transmitter station (using **KR9RK**) and lots of demonstrations stations: one FlexRadio Maestro setup operating the big station at Q-SO Qorners (**K9SOB**), another FlexRadio Maestro operating a more modest station remotely in North Carolina (**K9SO**), one RemoteRig setup running a remote Kenwood TS-2000 (N9OIG), a satellite setup where we will attempt to communicate with the International Space Station (**KR9RK**), and multiple mobile radio demonstration setups and POTA stations (individual call signs).

Jeff, KC9JOB and **Matt, AF9Q** will set up a mini fox hunt (on foot) with 2 or 3 transmitters to find during the day. Equipment will be available for those who would just like to try it out. A great activity for the kids too!

Please bring snacks and/or deserts to share and BYOB.





It only took 2 minutes to test mount our 33 foot tall skyhook just outside the shelter (left). There are plenty of electrical outlets and operating benches indoors. The large indoor room even has flap openings in the walls for our coax!





The overall site is well over an acre in size ... plenty of room for multiple POTA-like setups (bring your own) and a ton of picnic tables.

There is a small per-car entry fee to the state park but the cost of the picnic (hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, etc.) is being picked up by an anonymous donor so there is no attendance fee. Registration, however, is requested for planning purposes. Please respond to the meeting notices sent out to the members and HH forum participants.

So load up the entire family and join in on the picnic fun. BYOB, snacks, and desserts to share if you want. Recommended: bring your own chairs.

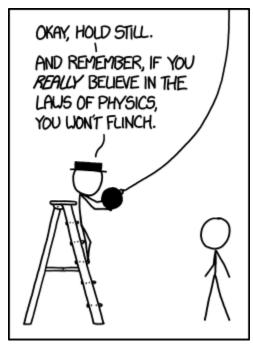


Pictures from our last "Taste" showing two of the four active HF stations we had in operation:



The "Taste" is just a shortened version of the big annual 36 hour ARRL event with no huge commitments or overnight camping. Other clubs may sponsor more serious full weekend events but we're not in it to win it... just some family fun. This year, the **TASTE OF FIELD DAY** is an official LRA sponsored club event.







THE ERRATIC FEEDBACK FROM A RANDOMLY-VARYING WIRELESS SIGNAL CAN MAKE YOU CRAZY.

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 (school holidays excepted) between 2:00-3:00pm

Contesting Corner





Like it does every year, the month of May looms large in the ham radio world, boasting **Dayton Hamvention (May 19-21), Four Days in May** (May 18-21), and **Contest University** (May 18—registration open until May 10). If you can't make it to Contest University to get the latest information on upgrading your stations and improving your scores, there are some opportunities this month to participate in contests that can hone your operating skills for the remainder of 2023 and beyond.

VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest: May 3, May 10, May 17 1700Z to 2000Z. Open to all licensed hams, this contest runs the first Wednesday of every month for 2M, the second Wednesday for 70cm, and the third Wednesday for 23cm.

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 (like when someone is helping another with a technical problem) 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 focused conversion is no more polite on a repeater than it is in person.

Think about moving your focused discussions to less busy repeaters or simplex, too.

But if the conversation is just a small talk "rag chew", feel free to break in and just say HI!

Also, if you're accessing our repeaters via Allstar, please remember to disconnect any other links you may have set up before you connect.

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. If you're a member, you can download them on Android, IoS, and Kindle Fire too.







American Madio Parlay League SS Main Street • Newington, CT 08115-5694

Ham Radio News:

BREAKING NEWS: MFJ ENTERPRISES TO SCALE DOWN PRODUCT LINE, OPERATIONS

Thursday, April 25th, MFJ Enterprises confirmed that it was making major changes to the 52-year-old business. MFJ's location in Starkville, Mississippi will remain open but its operation will be "shrinking dramatically." The changes are expected to be felt throughout the amateur radio realm, according to office manager, Nancy Capps.

In a letter released publicly late Thursday, company founder Martin Jue K5FLU, explained that the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and his own desire, at age 80, to have more family time were the impetus for the change.

No information was immediately available about the fate of MFJ's sister product lines such as HyGain, Cushcraft and Ameritron. Newsline will be following these developments.

Stuff You Need (?) Department:

Jeff, KC9JOB highly recommends the Ender-3 S1 Pro for low cost 3D printing. Jeff uses this model to do a lot of printing and sells several custom designed printed components online. He found this unit on sale for only \$211.65 and posted the information on the HH email chain in April



Brad, K9WNG, found some exciting new products online and sent them to me after the deadline from last month (April 1) had past. Get your orders in soon!





Battery powered ground rod!

Got lousy ground? Having a hard time diverting lightning? Have we got the cure for you!

- Turns any ground rod into an RF vacuum! Nothing gets out of this RF black hole!
- So effective a connection to your equipment or tower not necessary.
- Unlike corded ground rods, these are much easier to use on portable operations.
- Works on any ground rod, even our premium plastic rods!
- Use any battery, any voltage!
- Use positive terminal for northern hemisphere, negative voltage for southern hemisphere.

AC powered ferrite!

Having trouble stopping RFI with ordinary ferrite? Well put some POWER into your efforts!

- Absolutely stops ALL current flow through any cable it is placed over.
- · Impervious to red ants.

Not responsible for house fires.





Thanks to our growing list of newsletter contributors! Make sure you post your activities on the HH forum or send them to me at VP@KR9RK.COM. Pictures say it best!

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

APPENDIX I, upcoming hamfests:

May 4, 2024 – ARAC Hamfest Location: Superior, WI Sponsor: Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club Website: https://www.thearac.org/

June 1, 2024 – Green Bay Mike and Key Club Hamfest Location: Green Bay, WI Sponsor: Green Bay Mike & Key Club Website: www.k9eam.org

June 8, 2024 - Lyons, Wisconsin Freefest co-sponsored by LAARC and LRA radio clubs. Lyons park, in Lyons.

June 15, 2024 – Riverland ARC Swapfest Location: Stoddard, WI Sponsor: Riverland Amateur Radio Club Website: www.rarc.qth.com

July 6, 2024 – South Milwaukee ARC Hamfest Location: South Milwaukee, WI Sponsor: South Milwaukee ARC WI9SM Website: www.wi9sm.org

August 10, 2024 – CVARC 2024 Hamfest Location: Chippewa Falls, WI Sponsor: Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club Website: https://w9cva.org/hamfest

August 24, 2024 – Circus City Swapfest Location: Baraboo, WI Sponsor: Yello Thunder Amateur Radio Club Website: http://yellowthunder.org

September 7, 2024 – ORC Annual Regional Fall Swapfest Location: Cedarburg, WI Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club Website: http://www.OzaukeeRadioClub.org

September 20-21, 2024 – HRO Superfest Location: Milwaukee, WI Sponsor: Ham Radio Outlet Website: Not Provided

October 19, 2024 – Hidden Valley ARC 1st Annual Hamfest Location: Lancaster, WI Sponsor: Hidden Valley Amateur Radion Club Website: Not Provided

November 2, 2024 – ARES Conference / State Convention Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI Sponsor: Numerous Website: https://wi-arrl.org/events/