



UNDERLINED TEXT IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE LINKS TO OTHER SITES

Newsletter: [January 1, 2025](#)

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

127 Members strong as of 12/31/2024 and going on our 50th year!

We welcomed four new members in December, two International:

- Mark Klabunde - KE9BCT
- Graham M. Matthews - GM0UUB
- Chris - KC9IJB
- Chad Clowes - VE6XAD

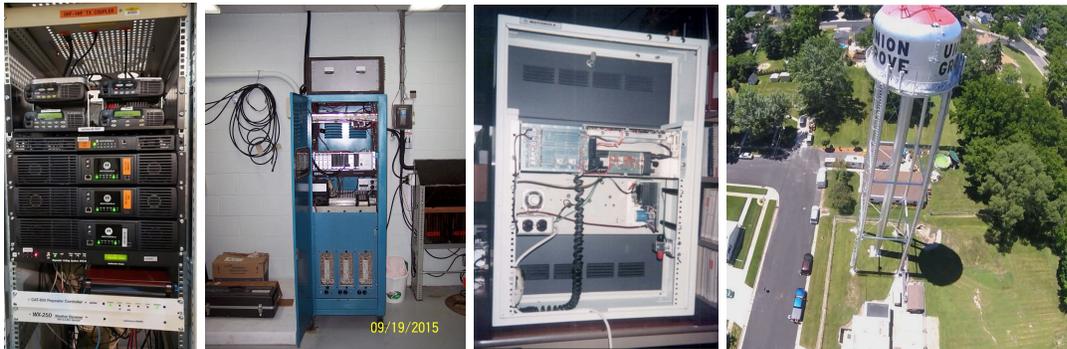
May you all prosper in the New Year! (Check boxes when complete)

Operate our special event station K5O commemorating our 50th anniversary as a club next Spring: contact KB9LLV

RENEW YOUR 2025 LRA MEMBERSHIP NOW! Many memberships expire today! LRA will not prosper in 2025 without your help.

[32 memberships expire today. That is a huge loss of revenue for the club](#)

Visit [RENEW NOW](#) to renew membership or to join for the first time. Membership dues are essentially our only source of income and “This stuff ain’t cheap”





From the board

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

Our Technical Director, **Kevin, N9OIG** had fun last month with the repeater “sleigh bell” courtesy tones on our Walworth RX site and our “HO HO HO” at the top of each hour. We had fun listening to them as well, but alas, they’re gone now.

Our new Walworth receive site for the 442.000 repeater has been providing much needed western area receive coverage. You may access this site by switching to a 114.8 PL. (Still listen to main TX site) This is linked into our main site full time via Allstar.

Full time RF access to LRA’s 442.000 wide area repeater is also available in the Burlington area and is available via the 442.850 (88.5) repeater operated and owned by **Robin, WB9COW (Trustee)**. He also provides Echolink access (check with Robin for details). Use this site for handheld radio access when visiting the famous Fred’s Burgers in Burlington (no relation).

Scott, W9AFB, wrote the following note to the LRA board. Matt, AF9Q is working with the VEC to help make this happen.

“I was recently contacted by the Director of Technology (Kevin KD9PXG) at Westosha Central High School in Paddock Lake. He has resurrected the radio club at the school after being defunct for many years.

I was over at the school today to give a talk about ham radio during one of their meetings. It was pretty neat and the students are planning on taking the exam towards the end of february. I mentioned that there are a number of our club members in the area who are probably willing to help out if asked.

They have a good start already at the club. A new Yaesu HF radio, HF vertical on the roof, and a dual band DMR mobile radio. Still putting the station together, but we did make some FT8 contacts on HF today.

Anyways, I wanted to send this to the board instead of to the email list as working with a school club should be a little more formal/structured. I’m happy to be the liaison between the clubs.

Right now I’m working to get a VE session there at the school rather than the students having to travel to an exam site elsewhere like Milwaukee. May need some help with this depending on what I hear back from my VE contacts.”

The board selected and proudly awarded our “members of the year” award to **Pete, K9PJC** and **Heather, WD9DHM**



*In recognition for your contributions,
service, dedication and going above
and beyond expectations.*



Lakeshore Repeater Association
Hereby Awards:

**PETER & HEATHER
CZECHORSKI
K9PJC & WD9DHM**

2023 - 2024



LRA Special Event Station:

The board formed a committee to apply for a special event callsign and get on the air to commemorate our 50th anniversary as a club. **Kevin, KB9LLV**, has been appointed “Special Events Coordinator” for 2025. Check with Kevin for details to operate “K5O”

LRA TASTE of FIELD DAY EVENT:

An expanded “Taste of Field Day” event was authorized for this year with local stations staying on the air longer.

Last full weekend of June, 2025. Contact **K9SO** and/or **KB9LLV** for details. Last year:



LRA operating software changes:

With increasing membership, our old “seat of the pants” way of operating must change and we need to modernize our operations. We will be moving to HamClubsOnLine software sometime in the first quarter. Look for details and further discussion at the January quarterly meeting on the 28th.



... to Support the LRA Activities Volunteer and [RENEW!](#)

At the last membership meeting , President Dwayne announced that we have formed a bi-weekly “volunteers forum” meeting call on GoogleMeets that will consist of any and all LRA volunteers. But volunteers only. To qualify for joining this call, members must volunteer for SOMETHING... . ANYTHING AT ALL. This will not be a formal meeting, but only a very informal discussion group. If you feel left out of the “inner circle of club management”, try volunteering for something and participating in LRA’s activities. 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 **Tuesday, January 28** and it will be held at our **new YMCA location** in Mt. Pleasant.

A special presentation will be made by Bernie, N9AZA on our participation in the NOAA weather spotting program.



LRA Member Activities:

PARTY, PARTY, PARTY!

Member of the year award presentation, auctions, and **KC9UJO** hosting the Happy Hour Un-Net LIVE! from the upper deck stage. Lots of fun!







K9MWG, KD1Z, and K9SO, all out of town that night, remotely attended the party via Google Meets. More fun to be there, but still a lot of fun to watch. THANKS!

Special Shoutout:

Bernie, N9AZA, donated a wonderful brand new laptop computer for auctioning off at the party. It generated \$375 for LRA! A very special thank you is extended to Bernie from all of us.



Bernie, N9AZA, is our SKYWARN coordinator for the LRA. Summer is long gone now, but let's prepare. Don't miss Bernie's presentation at the January 28 meeting.

Supporting Bernie on our SKYWARN committee are **Steve, N9SEB**, **Rick, KC9UJO**, and **Dwayne, N9PYA**.

The SKYWARN network is designed as a "liaison net" during severe weather operations, serving as a collection point where local spotter networks (operating on their local repeaters and frequencies) can collect and relay reports and information to the NWS in Norman. The local net control stations gather information from individual spotters and relay that information to the NWS via the liaison net.

Happy Hour, LRA Style: our 5th year



We have a new HH link: KR9RK-R Hams Over IP # 15081

Congratulations go out to John, KC9QFP, for joining the "Millennial Club" passing the 1000 check-in mark last month. The Millennial club certificate is something else! John becomes the 7th member of that very exclusive group. Several others are on deck for that group as of this writing:

		
KC9QFP	John	1002
KB9JPN	Paul	961
KC9JOB	Jeff	954
K9WBT	Bruce	928
N9PYA	Dwayne	909

Several others joined the Century Club roles last month. **CC Certificate #99 was awarded to Bob, WB9TNF:**

KD9SVW	Joe	106
N9OWE	Mark	105
WM9H	William	105
N1VKQ	Joshua	102
VA6RCN	Kevin	102
WB9TNF	Bob	102

The beautiful FAT SQUIRREL Century Club certificate is FREE, courtesy of **Dave, NP2I's** efforts and financial contribution, and is awarded for 100 HH check-ins. There are 99 of them decorating hamshack walls as of today. Six more recipients this month. **Who will be #100???** These are ACTUAL mailed-out certificates, not just one emailed to you that you have to print yourself.

692 individual hams have checked in almost 42,000 times so far.

Many new hams have recorded the Happy Hour as their very first QSO.

This group meets daily on both the LRA 442.000 and 147.240 Allstar linked repeaters at 5:00pm sharp and lasts for about an hour. Be prepared to share your happy thoughts for the day.

Paul, WB9JPN, Steven, KC9FSW (*who got 50 check-ins on his first time as moderator just as I was writing this Newsletter!*) and **Jen, K9UET** have recently joined the growing list of guest moderators. Try moderating yourself sometime. We won't let you fail! Contact **Bill, KD1Z**, our moderator coordinator for details.

Repeaters from Maine, United Kingdom, Saskatoon Canada, Milwaukee, Burlington, and others regularly link in to us. If you're out of radio range, log in via Allstar nodes 511680 and/or 511681. WB9COW/R has Echolink and Hams-over-IP connections too.

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.



LRA 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](#)] or send me an email requesting an invite to VP@KR9RK.COM



Member Activities

Rich, W9ABE, recently purchased the 9 inch 2M/440 CompactAntenna and mag mount for his Tahoe. Working FB, Rich!

Craig, KD9UQE has finally returned from an extended absence! Welcome home, Craig.

Some cool member awards were earned last month:



SKYWARN™
Recognition Day
2024 Edition
Ready, Responsive, Resilient

Presented to:

Richard Hawthorne
Sullivan Wisconsin
WX9MKX
W9ABE

Certificate Achieved:

December 7, 2024



Cumulus

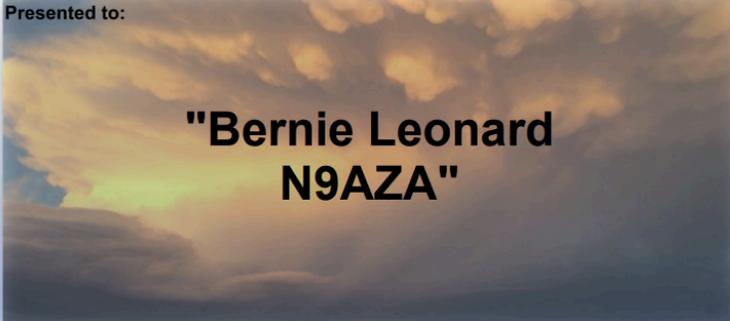




SKYWARN™ Recognition Day 2024 Edition

Ready, Responsive, Resilient

Presented to:



"Bernie Leonard N9AZA"

Certificate Achieved:

December 7, 2024

Supercell Thunderstorm



Many club members participated in the 12 Days of QRZ event this year but no one sent me a picture of their certificate. So I'm publishing this generic one:



Unlike the HH Century Club and Millennial Club certificates which are FREE (courtesy of a financial donation from NP2I), you have to send in \$25 to get one of these.

Project Pages:



[send me pictures of your latest projects!]

The MORCONI:

Fred, K9SO: I've always been challenged remoting CW paddle information over the Internet. Packet Jitter and latency issues destroy the timing of high speed paddle CW. While keyboard CW solutions exist, legacy CW operators like me miss the "reality" of paddle CW interfaces.

I've always thought that time stamping the key closures and openings then re-assembling them at the distant end in the correct format was the answer.

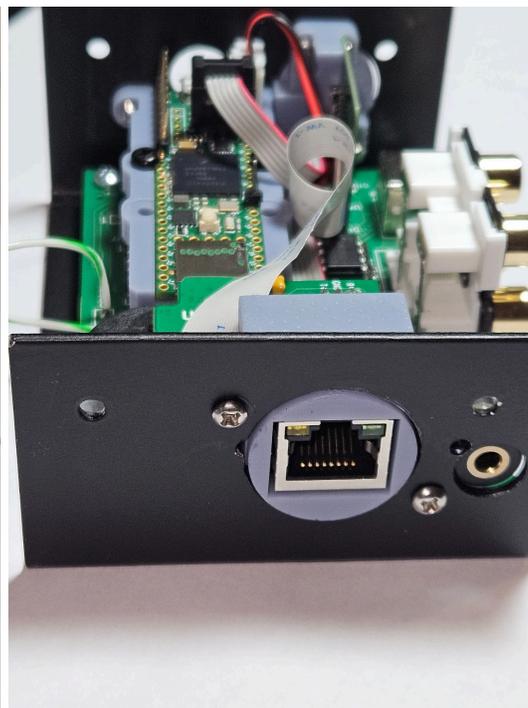
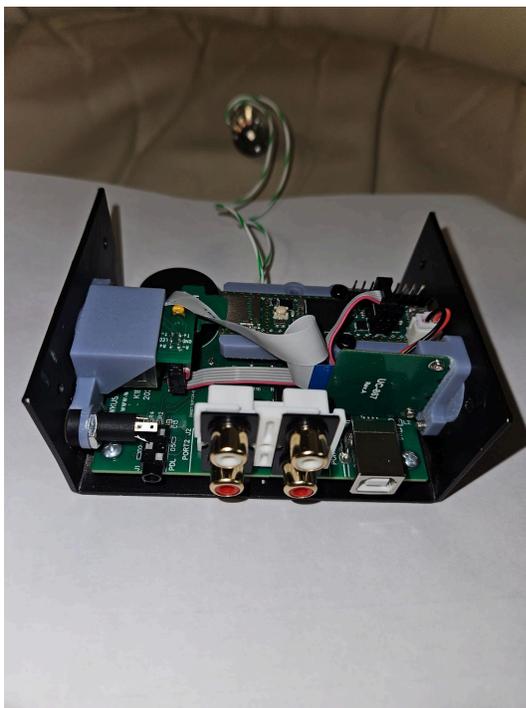
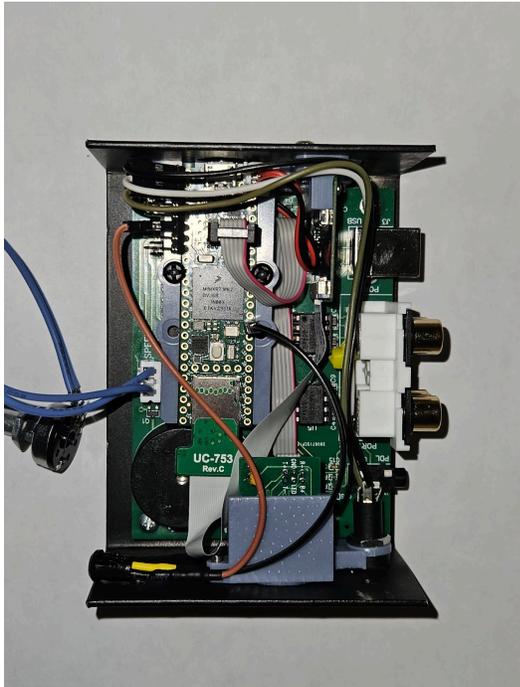
Now, someone (Max, N5NHJ) has done just that. He calls the system [MORCONI](#) and I've now installed it in North Carolina. I've written my own code with some modest success, but I tried out the MORCONI solution first. The program, written in C, runs on a powerful Teensy 4.1 micro and links into my FlexRadio system at the far end. I managed to build it into the Winkeyer USB case. Here's an implementation of the MORCONI system by G4IRN in a separate box I built.

Max calls this the "MORCONI". I first built one inside a Winkeyer USB creating a "MORCONI-ized WINKEYER" The added front panel LED indicates when the unit is connected remotely from NC back to my FlexRadio station at Q-SO Qorners, Wi.:



my first version

Then, **Jeff, KC9JOB**, built up another MORCONI keyer the “right way” for me. For this project, he installed a Teensy 4.1 single board computer inside an existing Winkeyer box. I had built one previously inside another Winkeyer (above picture), but Jeff printed up a lot of connectors that avoid “drilling” all those pesky square holes in the chassis. This is an incredibly tight package. The pictures don’t do justice to Jeff’s skills.



I followed up with the developer and he added stand-alone keyer functionality for me. At my request, he also added 3rd party software program interfaces that add auto keying features. This interfaces to rig control and contest software programs like N1MM and N3FJP. This tiny package not only does everything the famous Winkeyer does, but adds direct Internet connectivity to Flex Radios, something Winkeyers can't do. With another box at the remote site, it will work with any radio. It would make an exceptional travel keyer. My son, K4JFG, 3D printed the case for me on his new Bambu printer.



Now in use side by side at my NC operating position. One keyer is connected to my Flex Radio Q-SO Qorners station, the other to my NC station.

But Jeff wasn't done ... not by a long shot. He then moved on and built up an Allstar node for **Kevin, N9OIG**, using a Motorola speaker as a starting point. Kevin had been talking about building this for a long time. He finally called upon our "master builder" **Jeff, KC9JOB**, for help. This is one of the many radioless Allstar node now in use at N9OIG.



Lastly, I had spotted a couple of really cool fire station call boxes for sale at a local hamfest two years ago. I knew Kevin wouldn't be able to resist, so I went looking for him when I saw them. Unable to find him immediately, I sent out the LRA search team. It turns out he was taking his General exam (he passed), but we finally showed the boxes to him. He bought two.

In similar fashion to the Motorola speaker box, **Jeff, KC9JOB**, converted one of them into one of the coolest Allstar radio-less nodes you'll ever see. This, of course has an internal speaker with amplifier:



In the News:

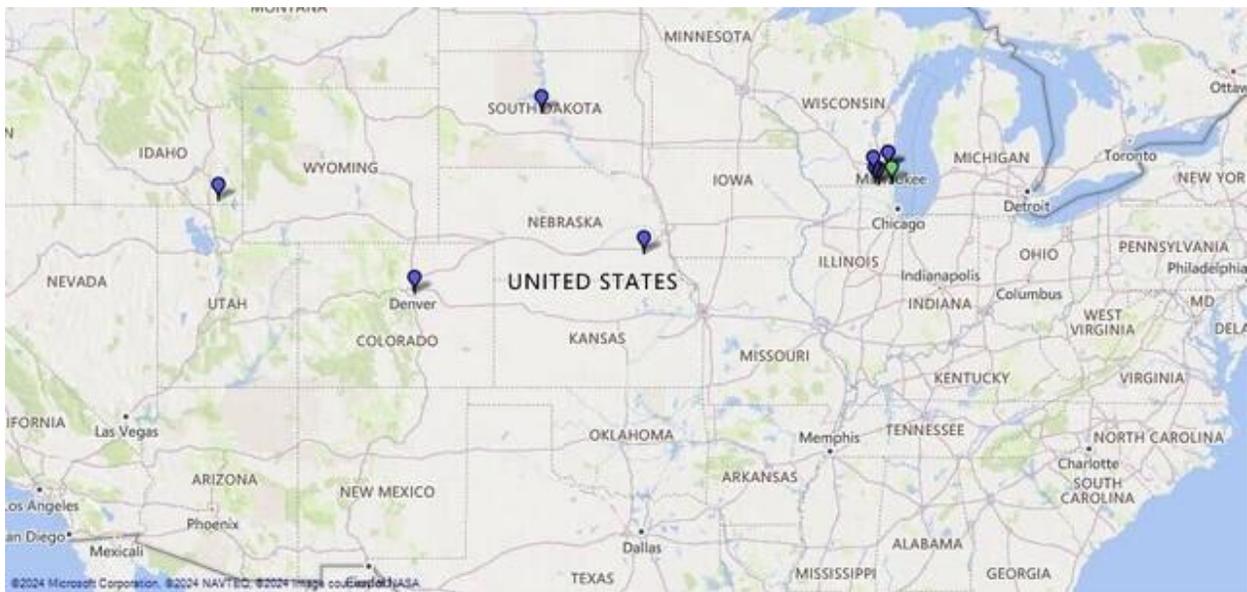
- [Reinhard DH3NAB](#), has sold his RF-KIT amplifier company to a manufacturing group that will now be known as RF-POWER, gmbH. They will continue to manufacture and support the German “crowd-funded” self contained 1500w amplifier. While semi-retired, Reinhard will continue to contribute to this marvelous adventure:



- This of course falls in the footsteps of the **MFJ closure** announced last month. As much as we all hate to admit it, suddenly losing MFJ is a big hit to Ham Radio.
- ROCKET'S SELF-DESTRUCTION ABORTS HAM SATELLITE'S JOURNEY [DETAILS HERE](#)



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](#)]. Here's his latest check-in map:



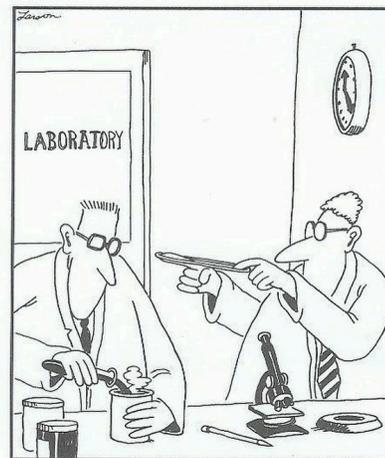
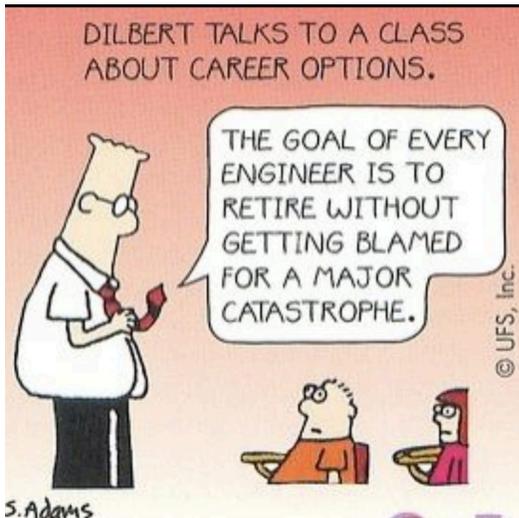
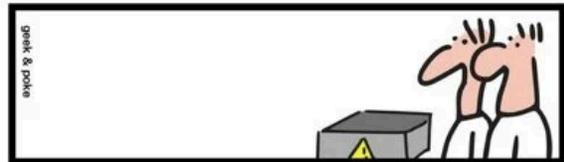
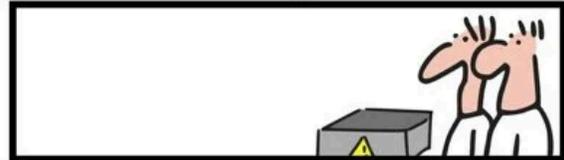
Physics Comics

Classical Mechanics
Motion, Force, Energy

Schrödinger's Cat



Inadvertently, Roy dooms the entire earth to annihilation when, in an attempt to be friendly, he seizes their leader by the head and shakes vigorously.



On Oct. 23, 1927, three days after its invention, the first rubber band is tested.

Contesting/Operating Corner

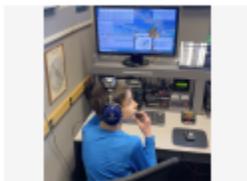


Visit the contest calendar to see what's cookin' this weekend:

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

TONIGHT ONLY January 1, 2025:

[ARRL Straight Key Night](#) is January 1, 2025, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. This 24-hour event is not a contest but rather a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage -- radio communications by Morse code. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs (radio contacts). The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners. All authorized amateur frequencies may be used but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands.



12/24/2024 | ARRL Kids Day - January 4, 2025

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® Kids Day runs January 4, 2025 from 1800 UTC - 2359 UTC.

[Learn More](#)

[ARRL January VHF](#) Contest, January 15, 1900Z to January 17, 0359Z. For amateurs in the U.S. and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz.

[North American QSO Party, CW](#), January 15, 1800Z to January 16, 0559Z. SSB version, Jan 22-23, 1800Z to 0559Z

[CQ 160 Meter Contest, CW](#), January 28, 2200Z to January 30, 2200Z.

Winter Field Day January 25 & 26: [Information HERE](#)

Excuses, Excuses: Do We Really Need Them?



“The old one doesn’t match my new shack color scheme.”

- Your setup needs to look as good as it sounds!

“It’s not me, it’s the radio. It just doesn’t understand me anymore.”

- Clearly, communication has broken down.

“The DX gods sent me a sign... in Morse code!”

- Who are we to argue with divine CW intervention?

“This new model will finally help me reach that elusive 300th DXCC country.”

- It’s always the equipment holding you back, not the propagation.

“It’s not an expense; it’s an *investment* in my RF future!”

- Financially savvy operators know their priorities.

“The dog chewed through the power cord, so it’s obviously time to upgrade.”

- Pets are secretly on your side when it comes to new gear.

“My spouse is getting a new couch, so I’m just balancing the scales.”

- Fairness in household budgeting is important.

“This one has a blue display! I’ve only ever owned green ones.”

- Aesthetic upgrades are absolutely necessary.

“The guy at the hamfest said this was the best one for talking to Mars.”

- You never know when extraterrestrial QSOs might become the norm.

Did You Know (?) Department?

- ... **that** SSB is also a form of AM (Amplitude Modulation)? What we normally call SSB is more properly called SSB-SC (Single Sideband - Suppressed Carrier). While it's more efficient to transmit an AM signal without the carrier, the carrier must be present in order to demodulate the audio with a simple envelope detector. But this can be done at the receiver in the form of a "Beat Frequency Oscillator" (BFO).
- ... **that** there is an automatic way to tune in SSB-SC signals without the "duck quacking" audio distortion? Icom has patented this concept:

Method for tuning a Single Sideband receiver including processing the signal in the time domain, converting the signal to the frequency domain, processing the signal in the frequency domain, converting the modified signal from the frequency domain to a correlation domain, processing the signal in the correlation domain and analyzing the processed signal from the correlation domain to determine a receiver tuning error.

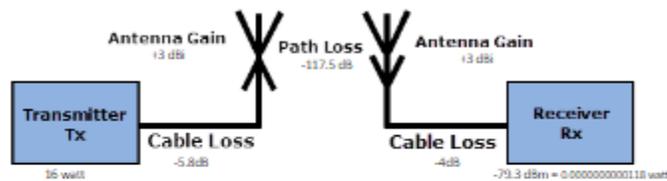
You may want to read that twice, but it didn't help me much.

- ...**that** the standard BNC TLA stands for Bayonet Neill–Concelman (BNC) connector?



- ... **that** the DECIBEL is just a decimated BEL? An interesting "FRED TALK" presentation link here: [DECIBEL EXPOSED](#) .

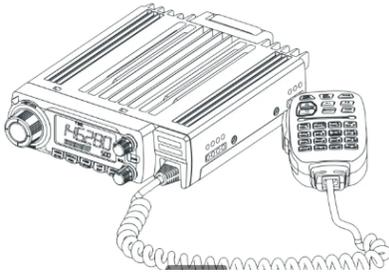
Calculated K9SO received power at KR9RK UHF repeater
 ... a lot easier using dB than using watts



TX power	+42dBm	16 watts
TX endCable loss	-5.8dB = -47.8dBm	4.2 watts
TX antenna gain	+3dBi*	8.4 watts
Path loss	-117.5dB	0.000000000148 watt
RX antenna gain	+3dBi*	0.000000000296 watt
RX end cable loss	-4dB	
RX received power	-79.3dBm	0.000000000118 watt

*dBi = gain over an isotropic antenna. Path loss is calculated between two isotropic antennas

What you need (?) Department:



More radios?



On Amazon now! The biggest innovation since the LID

Field Day Cautionary Tale: outhouse disaster

This is an honest-to-God actual picture taken of the outhouse at one of our Summer Field Day locations many years ago. The toilet seat bravely held on. **Dave, NP2I** (then WA9KVE) might have been there too. Ask him about his backside when you see him.

Apparently, a few of us were generating too much methane gas and smoking at the same time. No one was injured during the filming of this event, but it probably took us a long time to recover from the hangovers. 😊

True story. -K9SO/9



I've started a swap meet section of the newsletter in the appendix below and it works! Stuff is selling. **Send me pictures and details of what treasures you may want to sell.**

Share your achievements with your fellow LRA members! Send me your photos! Post on the HH forum and I'll pick them up.

Along with two of my Grandkids, I wish all of you a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



73, Fred, K9SO

VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

VP@kr9rk.com

APPENDIX I, upcoming events:



Hamcathon in Orlando. Many LRA members are planning to attend. Feb 7-9

The 3rd annual [HamCation POTA Meet-up](#) will take place in Apopka, Florida on February 6th. Participants will gather at [Wekiwa Springs State Park](#) from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The event will include a park activation, door prizes, lunch, and more. More information is available from the [event flyer](#) [PDF].

<https://www.hamcathon.com/>

WCRA Winter Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/14/2024

Start Date: 01/14/2024

End Date: 01/14/2024

Location: Kane County Fairground

525 S. Randall Rd.

St Charles, IL

Website: <http://w9ccu.org>

Sponsor: Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs (WCRA)

Type: ARRL Hamfest

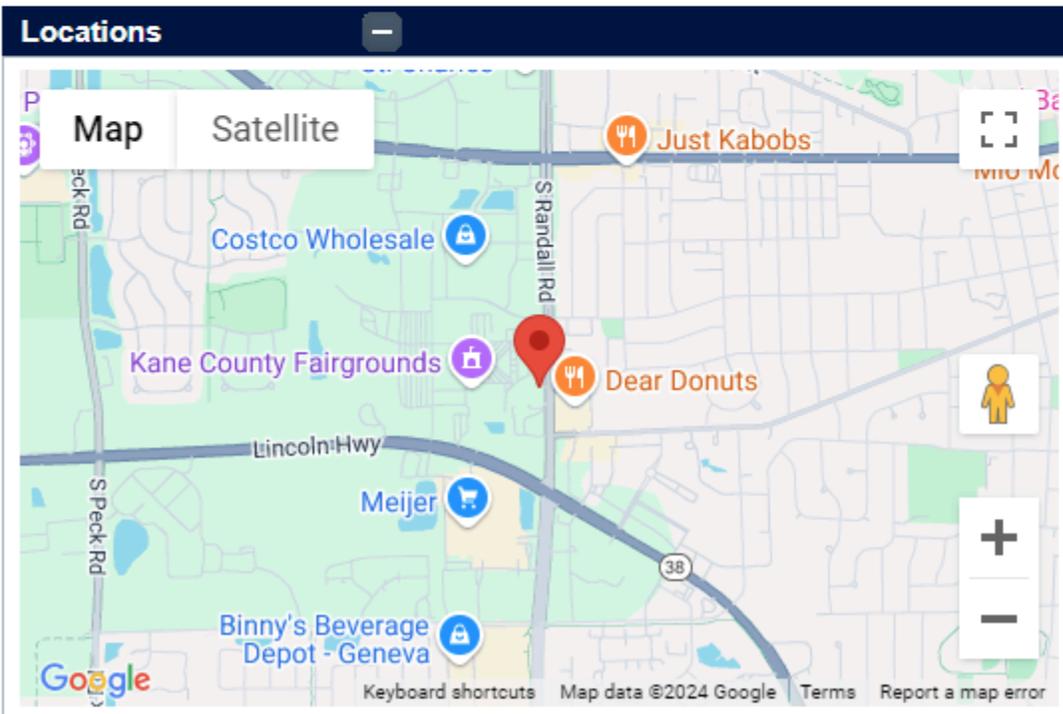
Talk-In: 145.31/- (107.2)

Public Contact: Kelsey Schroeder , KA9KDC

PO Box 1055 Wheaton, IL 60187

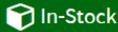
Phone: (630) 923-5447

Email: hamfest@w9ccu.org



Appendix II

LRA Freefest: Presented for informational purposes only. The LRA assumes no responsibility for accuracy or suitability of purpose and makes no warranty of any kind.

 In-Stock  Free Shipping!



AMERITRON ALS-1306

Linear Amplifier 1200 Watts HF + 6 Meters
Solid State RF Deck - ARI-500 Built In

HRO Discount Price: \$3,998.95*



*After Coupons & Promotions.







My pre-MFJ 1306 is for sale for \$2900
K9SO. \$1100 off retail

From **N9OIG**:

Icom 7300 \$700 (not actual photo of unit)



N9OIG: Yeasu FTM891 with remote kit FT-8 interface Automatic Antenna Tuner MAT-Y200 and Remote rig. \$750 without remote rig.\$1000 with everything

(stock photo of unit)

