

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

Newsletter

October 1, 2023

114 members strong!

In September we welcomed **Michael, WW9X** and **Brad, N9BJB** to our Association. Both are regulars on the Happy Hour Un-net. Be sure to welcome them to LRA when you see them or hear them on the air.

From the board



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

VP, and Secretary officer positions will be elected at the October general membership meeting. Be sure to attend this very important meeting. Submit officer nominations to Board@KR9RK.COM

Recall that Dave, NP2I is stepping down from the Treasurer's position effective in October. An election for the remaining 1 year of his term will be held as well.

Don't forget DMR!

Our Lakeshore DMR digital dual voice capacity time slot repeater is connected to the ChicagoLand C-bridge Network with Ham radio contacts and talk groups to be accessed and heard from all over the world! Set your DMR radios to 440.00625MHz + 5MHz using Color Code 9. Our primary talk group is WI State 3155 on time slot one.

Volunteering



Calling Volunteers: Website & FB Wizards Wanted! 📡

Step up, tech enthusiasts! We're seeking volunteers to turbocharge our club's online game. Your mission: jazz up our website, sprinkle stardust on our Facebook page. 🚀

Ready to rock the digital realm? ☀️ Contact Matt - AF9Q at: secretary@kr9rk.com. Let's own the web, together!

Volunteers are still NEEDED for these KR9RK Activities: LRA officers, Teaching and Tacos sessions

Repeater News

We now have 4 repeaters linked to our fabulous LRA machines during the Happy hour with the addition of the MAARS group in Milwaukee [513 Repeater Org](http://513Repeater.Org). Also, the Elkhorn repeater group, LAARC, discussed linking their VHF repeater (146.865) as well at their last club meeting. We hope they decide to join HH!

Work on the proposed Walworth receive site for the 442 repeater is still in progress and a prototype is heard on the air occasionally as tests are run. **Kevin, N9OIG**, is donating the equipment that will be needed for this addition to the club.

Allstar users: don't forget to shut off all unused links before using the repeater. Warnings have been issued via temporary blacklisting for those who do not comply.

LRA Franksville site, KR9RK

Here's a couple of cool pictures of our Franksville 2m receive site (one of 3 RX sites) at the WE Energies maintenance center. This has a UHF link into our 2m voting system.



Quarterly Membership Meeting October 31, 2023

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. This is an important officer election meeting. New members must wait 30 days after their application in order to vote. Members must be physically present to vote.

Taco/Tech Dinner Training Sessions

No, we won't be teaching you how to cook, but we are planning multiple afternoon / evening technical training sessions followed by a Taco dinner starting with January's NOAA/SULCOM talk on **Monday evening, January 15**. A representative from the National Weather Service will present details on the spotter program. You won't want to miss this one that starts promptly at 7:00pm at the Sturtevant Police Station. The Taco/Tech talks will include various subjects with discussion groups led by one or more of our many subject matter experts in the club and guests. Stay tuned for more details.

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LRA Member Activities:

Foxhunts



Check out the Fox Hunting article in [ON THE AIR](#) magazine

Saturday, October 21 is our next LRA foxhunt. In addition to being a training ground for our newly formed MIA committee, this is a lot of fun. Keep in touch and follow the action at KR9RK.ORG. 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 <https://groups.io/g/LRAFoxHunt/topics> Contact Matt to get set up.



Bernie, N9AZA, will be calling for weather spotters to come on line onto the LRA repeaters during extreme weather events. Be sure to pay attention to his announcements and participate in the NOAA spotting networks hosted on our wide area coverage repeater network.

September was fairly quiet as the season came near to an end. Bernie had some help from **Dwayne, N9PYA**. Great job, guys!

You won't want to miss the first Taco/Tech talk on January 15 (7:00pm at the Sturtevant Police station). The meeting should last 90 minutes and he would like to start at 1900 hrs.. All amateur radio operators are encouraged to attend!

Check out the National Weather Service's weather spotter site [HERE](#)

How do I get involved?

Free SKYWARN® spotter training is [available online](#) 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.

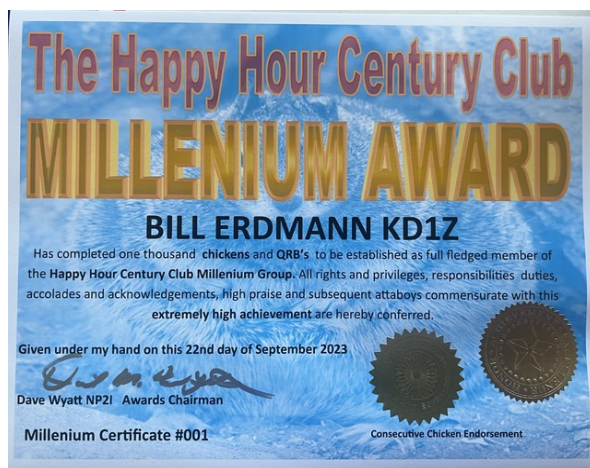
Happy Hour, LRA Style



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**, and **KD1Z**. Sundays are now moderated by our newest regular, **Rick**, **KC9UJO**. Fridays feature our “surprise” guest moderators, who have taken it from Billings, Montana and even Poland and France!. **Dwayne**, **N9PYA** has been a Friday “regular guest moderator” for the past several weeks. Join us every afternoon at 5:00pm and tell us what made you happy today.

The beautiful FAT SQUIRREL certificate, courtesy of **Dave**, **NP2I**, is awarded for 100 HH check-ins and there are nearly 60 of them decorating hamshack walls today.

Speaking of certificates, Dave created a very special one that was awarded to **Bill**, **KD1Z** last week for 1000 Happy Hour check-ins. This accomplishment was all the more outstanding since his streak was **CONSECUTIVE without a single missed day in nearly 3 years!** Thanks to Bill, who also moderates on Tuesday and Saturday nights for his incredible support.



Happy Hour continues to grow in popularity and your support continues to draw in new LRA members. **We welcomed another wide area repeater (MAARS club in Milwaukee) last month.** They automatically link to our 442MHz machine every day. North siders can access HH now on 145.130MHz (split down 600KHz, CTCSS 127.3). Since they've joined, we've had multiple 40+ check-in nights. Lots of Happy Thoughts from MAARS members will make your day.

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.

Congratulations to the latest HH Century Club certificate winners, **Rick, KC9UJO** and **Scott, KD9WFS**. We had just under 1000 check-ins again in September, and 355 hams have checked in 23000+ times since recorded history began in December of 2020. Still going strong after all these years. Over 45 “Chickens” on one night last week and of course the record setting 50 check-ins from Paris, France set by **Bruce, K9WBT**. Enjoy our afternoon “QRB” time at 5:30pm local time during the happy hour with your favorite “807” at ½ price.

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Important LRA Dates:

Saturday October 7th 8:45am ~ 12:15pm

KR9RK 2 Meter Repeater Only

Racine/Kenosha Ares ARRL SET Exercise

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) is scheduled for October 7, 2023.

The SET is ARRL's annual national emergency exercise designed to assess the skills and preparedness of Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) volunteers, as well as those affiliated with other organizations involved in emergency and disaster responses. The SET is open to all radio amateurs and partner organizations, in addition to national, state, and local officials. Besides ARES volunteers, those active in the National Traffic System (NTS), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), National Weather Service's SKYWARN® Storm Spotter program, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and a variety of other allied groups and public service-oriented radio amateurs are needed to fulfill important roles in this nationwide exercise.

For more info regarding SET please refer to web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/2023-set-exercise-to-test-skills-and-emergency-preparedness>

OCTOBER Saturday 21st, 2023 2pm~4pm

Location: 1301 N Milwaukee Ave Libertyville 60048

Libertyville IL, repeater group will be hosting a JOTA event at the Libertyville EOC. They are reaching out to other clubs around the area to see if there are other scouts that would like to participate. Anyone that is interested please RSVP to K9YO@races.org Ken is our Youth Program Chair and will be there.

December 10: LRA Christmas Party

Location: Tailgaters Bar & Grill 7641 Wi-Rt 38 Caledonia, Wi

It's the big club event of the year. Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this one. Bring the whole family.

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.



Winlink Wednesday



Bruce, K9WBT, has been leading a Winlink Wednesday Radio 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](#). Last week's check-ins included those below. I was able to join the previous week from NC via HF, too! This week's check-ins:

KD9NXG, Winlink Check-in form.

KD1Z, Winlink Check-in form.

K9WNG, Winlink Check-in Form

KC9HYY, good ole fashioned one line check in.

N9UUO, one line check in--Nice attempt at APRS check in though.

W9LOL, Current local weather conditions form.

N9SEB, ICS 213 General Message.

KK6HWN, Winlink Check-In form.

K9WBT(NCS)

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 in the conversation by clicking here now! You won't get spammed as you can opt to receive only one summary email per day.

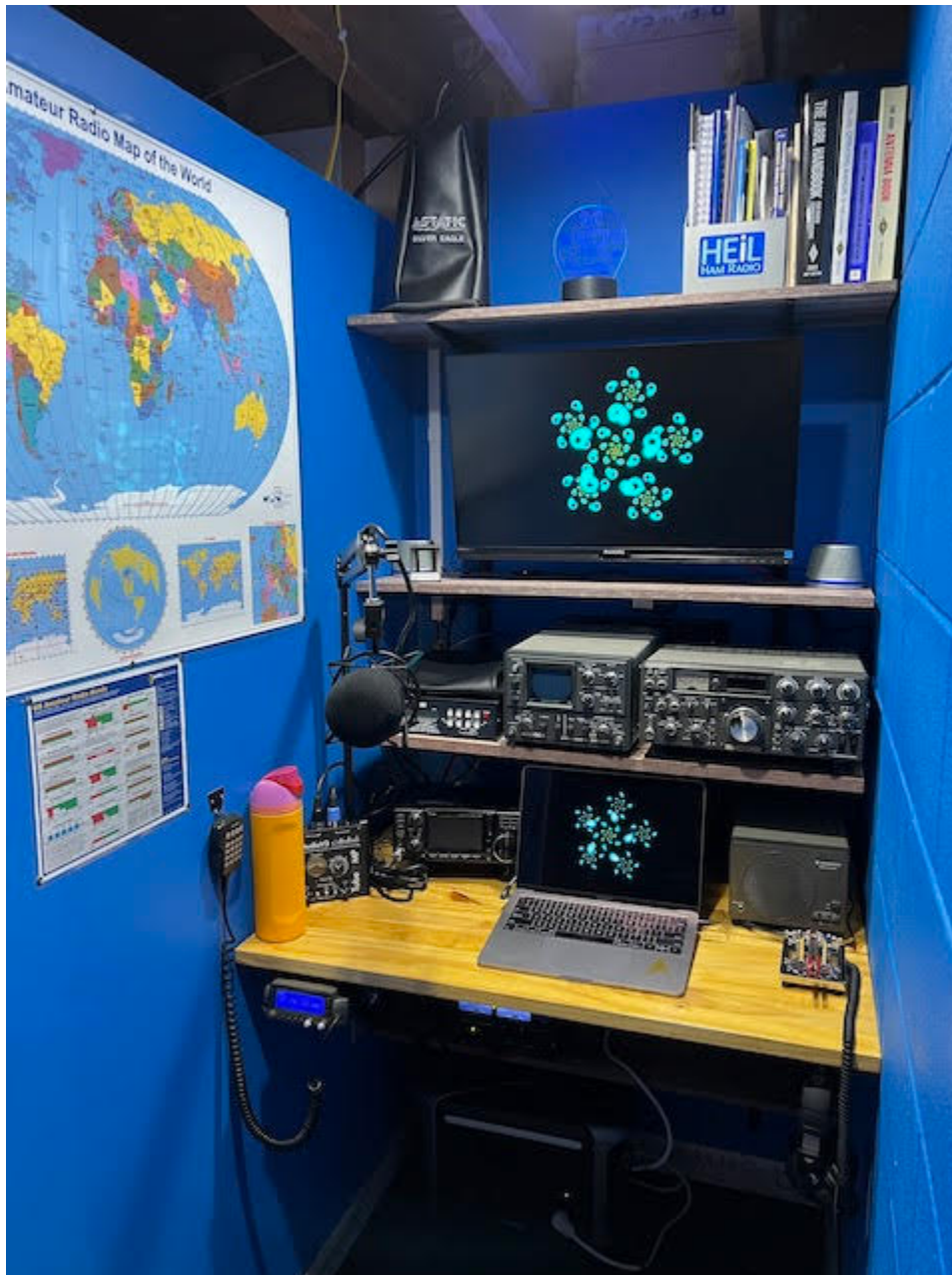
LRA Happy Hour Net

[illegible]

What are our members up to now?

Last month I asked the members to send me some pictures of their “shacks” and I got a great response. Here they are:

From **Greg, W9GTH**. Very cozy, Greg!,



John, KD9PLL with his 807's in the background (yes, some are Fat Squirrels) and his HH certificate on the wall:



Brad, N9BJB, sent this "corrected and cleaned up" picture of his shack. The original didn't look too bad Brad!:



... and my favorite that takes the simplicity prize was submitted by **Mike, WW9X**:



My (**K9SO**) North Carolina operating position that can operate both FlexRadios on HF simultaneously (note the two CW paddles) and my IC-706MKiig network.



By request, here's a picture of me (**Fred, K9SO**) in my marine mobile shack moderating the Un-net "K9SO/MM Marine Mobile" at sunset from the Yat-I-Got (the only 'yacht I got', get it?). While beached on a deserted island in the middle of Lake Norman in North Carolina, I operated my IC-706MKiiG station at Q-SO Qorners, Wi remotely from my "RetroRig" box in the foreground. No, it's not Allstar, it's magical.

We (**Jeff, KC9JOB** and I) "activated" two Lake Norman Happy Hour islands on Monday and Wednesday nights in September.



Mike, WW9X sent in a picture of a commercial satellite uplink truck his daughter's boyfriend operates. Wow:



Brad, K9WNG posted a picture of the “world’s smallest APRS radio” hamshack on the Happy Hour reflector. He didn’t know what to do with his ‘pinky’, it’s so small.



A dimly lit room with a desk setup. A laptop is open on the left, and a monitor displays a colorful, abstract pattern. A desk lamp illuminates the workspace. A chair is visible in the foreground.

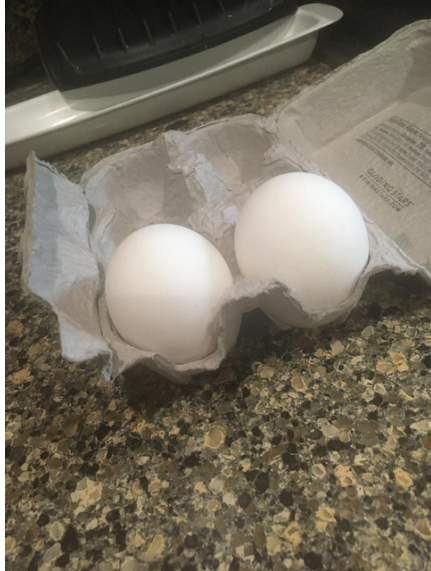
Other stuff:

Bill, KD1Z sent me this picture of a Lake Michigan waterspout taken off of Wind Point by a buddy of his on September 13. I'm told this was one of 3 spotted on the lake that day!



I'm told that a waterspout is a tornado-like column of whirling air and mist that forms over water. Contrary to popular belief, waterspouts don't stir up any water. They tend to be weaker than tornadoes yet they are sometimes confused with tornadoes as they often come about from the same stormy conditions.

The Autumnal Equinox took place on September 23 at 1:45am. It is said that you can easily balance eggs on their ends on the Equinox days. I had to try it so I got up early. It's TRUE! It was easy! Here's the proof:

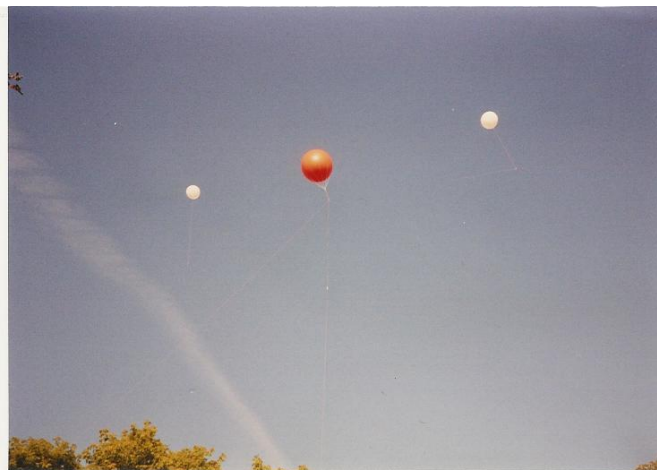


Not sure how this accident could have happened, but my son **Jay, K4JFG** snapped this picture of a mishap at our community dock here in Mooresville:





Here's a couple of old Field Day photos. **Dave, WA9KVE (now NP2I)** and my FD team launched an 80m dipole up 300 feet lifting a lot of RG-58 cable with the big 14' dia. balloon. The ends were supported by smaller weather balloons and each tethered by nearly 1000 feet of rope to stretch it out. Lots of fun and great memories. .

[illegible]

Jerry's Kids:

The LRA board received the following email from **Jerry, N0IMJ** regarding the radio club he mentors for his 8th grade students at the Lutheran School. Participation was a lot of fun for the “Old Men” too. I was prompted to bring in a bit of geography into the conversation. It just so happened I had worked a DXPedition on Chatham Island via CW that morning. They had fun looking for it on their maps (and they found it ... can you?)

Thanks to Dwayne, JC, Bill, Terry and Fred for entertaining the club KD9GRG students - most of which was their first time on the air today!

8th grader, Ethan, who is very gifted, already asked about getting a license. Does anyone have a recommendation as to the material that I can share with him? I used “Gordo’s” books.

Also, I was reminded that it has been two years since the kids have been on the air. KD9GRG was off during the COVID year as well as last year.

This group is very energetic and really wants to get the mic in their hands. They were super sad to have to call it quits at the end of the session and are bummed that they have to wait two weeks to get back on the air. This already is the best group of students that I have had and I am looking forward to working with them this school year.

If I can get the MFJ Cobweb 40 meter portion of the antenna fixed in time, I think there is a good chance that there will be some student participation for School Clubs On The Air!

Talk to you again in two weeks from 2:15 to 3:00 on Friday.

Thanks Again!

73 de Jerry, NOIMJ

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Did You Know?

- **That** the LRA Happy Hour gang created their own “Q” code: **QRB**, meaning “refresh your beverage”. ??
- **That** CW characters include what we call **PROSIGNS**. These are usually written with a line drawn above them to indicate that the letters shown are to be run together. Since I can’t type an “underline”, I’ll improperly identify them by underlining them instead.

Common CW PROSIGNS are

BT (pause)

KN (similar to K, but it says “all others stay out” no breakers invited)

AR (sent instead of K before contact is actually made as when answering a CQ. Also sent when turning over to the other party at the end of your message as in “NW BTU JOHN **AR** K2OC de K9SO **KN**”

SK (end of contact ... proper ending of a CW QSO is “73 **SK** K2OC de K9SO”)

These are not to be sent as individual letters as I so often hear, but rather run together to form a single character.

- **That** we have an annular solar eclipse coming up in October:??

Begins: Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 10:37 am

Maximum: Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 11:57 am 0.530 Magnitude

Ends: Sat, Oct 14, 2023 at 1:20 pm

Duration: 2 hours, 43 minutes

At maximum, it will look something like this here in Wisconsin:



- (RYRYRYRY...) is a character string that was originally widely used to test a five-level [teleprinter](#) or [RTTY](#) channel. The characters *R* and *Y* are "01010" and "10101" in 5-bit [ITA2](#) code (also known as Baudot) thus they are [Boolean](#) complements of each other. The weather service still uses it on their RTTY bulletins. Hams use it as a “pause”, similar to the CW prosign [BT](#). It makes a distinctive sound.

Famous Hams

1. Yuri Gagarin (UA1LO)

Yuri Gagarin became the first human to travel into space in 1961. This historic flight brought him immediate worldwide recognition. However, only few people know that Russian cosmonaut was also a ham radio operator. Most of the members of today's astronaut corps are licensed **amateur radio operators**.

2. Les Hamilton (GM3ITN)

Les Hamilton was a Scottish **ham radio operator** who first alerted the British government that the Falkland Islands had been invaded by Argentina. During the occupation he was the only person in Britain to be in regular radio contact with the islanders.

3. John Sculley (K2HEP)

John Sculley, the former president of PepsiCo (1977–1983), became the CEO of Apple Inc. in 1983 and he is also a licensed radio amateur. The marketing genius remained on the position for ten years and even saw the great Steve Jobs resign from his position after the fight between the two of them.

4. Qaboos bin Said al Said (A41AA)

Qaboos bin Said al Said is the Sultan of Oman. And not just that. The country's leader is a **radio amateur** as well! Qaboos bin Said al Said became the Sultan of the country of Oman in 1970 and has remained in the position to this day.

5. Juan Carlos (EA0JC)

From one country leader to another. Well almost. Juan Carlos resigned as the King of Spain from 1975 to 2014. His amateur radio callsign is EA0JC.

6. Marlon Brando (FO5GJ)

Last Tango in Paris, The Godfather, Julius Caesar... Who hasn't heard of these cult movies? They all have one thing in common. It's Marlon Brando, one of the best actors in history. And there's more. Marlon Brando was a licensed radio amateur, with the callsign FO5GJ.

From: Red Pitaya Ham Radio Blog

[illegible]

Contesting Corner



“It’s the big one ‘Lizbeth” (who remembers that famous line from Sanford & Son?)

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB: October 29, 0000Z to October 30, 2359Z. The solar flux may peak >160 that weekend too! This is why they call this time of year Contesting Season! **The CQ Worldwide DX Contest is the largest amateur radio contest in the world** with over 35,000 participants. The challenge is to make as many contacts with as many DXCC entities and CQ Zones as possible, while competing against the world's elite contesters. Not into SSB? The CW portion of the contest is November 26-27. Rules [HERE](#). Lots of SSB DX on 10m for the Technician class licensees.

ARRL School Club Roundup: October 17, 1300Z to October 21, 2359Z. This bi-annual event is designed to foster contacts with and among school radio clubs. Participants can exchange QSO information with any amateur radio station, so non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate as well. All amateur bands except 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters are permitted. Details [HERE](#)

Our Illinois members won't want to miss the **Illinois QSO party:**

- **Illinois:** October 16, 1700Z to October 17, 0100Z Download the rules [HERE](#)

What's with that? Ever come across a contest operation on the air and wonder what's going on? What's the exchange? Check out the complete Contest Calendar [HERE](#) and get all the details on almost everything in Ham Radio contesting. .

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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 [HERE](#). I'm a Life Member myself. This month in *QST*: *an 'ultimate' POTA?* In [ON THE AIR](#) magazine, an interesting article about **fox hunting**. *QEX* magazine, being more technical, covers latency in HF receivers this month. *NCJ* (not shown) covers contests. You get digital access to all four periodicals with ARRL membership.



DX News: The HF bands have been HOT! Check out this link to DX operations planned for October: [DXNow](#)

**Don't miss the biggies W8S on Swain's Island [HERE](#)
And 4W8X Timor Leste [HERE](#)**

Predicted solar flux

From the ARRL Propagation bulletin (K7RA):

Wow! Look at these solar flux predictions for October. Good DX conditions all month, But we may be on the downside of the cycle already. Get on the air NOW!:

Predicted flux values are 148 on September 29-30, then 145, 143 and 145 on October 1-3, 148 on October 4-5, 155 on October 6, 160 on October 7-8, 155 on October 9, 150 on October 10-11, 145 on October 12-14, then 150, 155, 155, 160 and 165 on October 15-19, 168 on October 20-23, then 164, 160, 160, 168 and 150 on October 24-28, then 145 and 150 on October 29-30, 155 on October 31 through November 2, 160 on November 3-4, and 155 on November 5.

[illegible]

Stuff You Need (?) Department:

I have no idea what MUDAFUKAS means, but it may be a must-have for you POTA guys:



... and with apologies to the famous philosopher René Descartes,

[illegible]

Remember, you can't be immortalized in the LRA Newsletter and get your 15 minutes of fame if you don't send me pictures of your activities. We had a bunch of takers this month ... keep them coming. Send them to me at VP@KR9RK.COM or better still, post them on the HH forum and I'll pick them up from there.

November will be LRA members antenna picture month.

Send me your antenna pictures! Here's 9 of my 15 operating antennas at Q-SO Qorners. Is that too many? ... Nah, but can you find 9 of them all? Hint: there are 3 on the tower. Elsewhere, one is particularly hard to see in this picture since I didn't want to disturb the aesthetics of the house (LOL). Answers next month.



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

ADDENDA: HAMFESTS

Nearing the Dayton Hamvention in size:

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.

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>

VE Testing Sessions:

EXAM SESSION

10/07/2023 | [Racine WI 53402-3405](#)

Sponsor: Un-sponsored

Location: Faith United Methodist Church

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

10/09/2023 | [Libertyville IL 60048-1308](#)

Sponsor: Lake County RACES/ ARES

Location: Lake County EOC CLASSROOM