

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

Newsletter

August 1, 2023

109 members strong!

This month we welcomed three new members:

John Stacie **KD9YPK**

Gregory Thomas Holding **W9GHT**

Glenn Trapp **W9GDT**

From the board



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

An open board meeting was held Friday evening, July 21 to discuss a proposed amendment to the LRA bylaws suggested by Ken Rugaber. Following board discussions and after consulting with members of the bylaws committee, the voting members of the board unanimously decided NOT TO RECOMMEND the proposal.

The amendment was put to a vote of the general membership at the quarterly meeting the following Tuesday, July 25. Only one vote in favor of the change was cast and it did not pass.

Our malicious interference group (MIA), led by **Steve, N9SEB**, continues to monitor our frequencies, and they have been gathering significant evidence for an upcoming FCC complaint. **Matt, AF9Q**, reminds us that the FCC continues to enforce such illegal activities: [FCC Enforcement activities](#)

I am sad to announce that Dave, NP2I, will be retiring from the Treasurer's position on the board after serving in that position for many years. His cowboy boots will be hard to fill. He will continue to serve through October to allow for an orderly transition.

Per the bylaws, the Treasurer's term expires in October, 2024 so a special election will be held at the next quarterly meeting to fill the remainder of Dave's term.

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

Volunteering



The most important duty of a club member is to volunteer for service in the organization and its activities. Volunteers are the lifeblood of this and many other organizations. That is why we need YOU. Please support your LRA organization by volunteering your time. Contact any board member for details: board@KR9RK.COM

Volunteers are still NEEDED for these KR9RK Activities : Club Picnic, Christmas Party

Repeater News

Our technical director, **Kevin, N9OIG**, has been experimenting with an 'anti-kerchunking' feature built into our repeater controllers. This feature requires a two to five second keydown before the reset tone will be heard. Shorter transmissions are immediately repeated so there is no need to key up for two seconds to be heard immediately. So don't be surprised if you don't hear the reset tone when you kerchunk. It's still working.

Kevin has also announced that he has secured a tower location and equipment for a western UHF receive site in Walworth county. The site will be linked to our systems via Allstar and will be accessed by transmitting a different (TBD) PL tone. This site will help alleviate the difference between RX and TX in the far western region of our coverage. Kevin is donating the equipment that will be needed for this addition to the club.

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

Allstar users: don't forget to shut off all unused links before using the repeater.

Quarterly Membership Meeting October 17, 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.

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Taco Dinner Training

No, we won't be teaching you how to cook, but we are planning multiple Saturday afternoon training sessions followed by a Taco dinner starting this fall. These will include various subjects with discussion groups led by one or more of our many subject matter experts in the club. Stay tuned for details.



LRA Member Activities:

Foxhunts



August 19 is our next LRA foxhunt. In addition to being a training ground for our newly formed MIA committee, this is a lot of fun. The weather is great now and this is one way to enjoy it! 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](#)

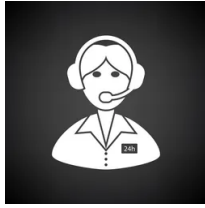
Matt set up a new Fox Hunt Group on Groups.IO <https://groups.io/g/LRAFoxHunt/topics>



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.

July had a couple of severe weather nets called. Bernie had some help from Dwayne, N9PYA. Great job, guys!

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!. 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.

Congratulations to the latest certificate winners. We had over 1000 check-ins in July, and 349 hams have checked in 22000+ times since it began in December of 2020. Still going strong after all these years. Over 40 “Chickens” on one night last week. Enjoy our afternoon “QRB” time at 5:30 during the happy hour with your favorite “807” at ½ price.

Annual LRA Summer Picnic:

Sunday, August 6 is the date of our annual LRA summer picnic. This year it will be held at North Park in Sturtevant (as always). Fun will begin at 12 noon. Be sure to sign up **TODAY at KR9RK.COM**. Don’t miss the amazing cuisine provided by **Pete, K9PJC** ... especially the fried corn on the cob dipped in butter. Smoked pulled pork sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs and more will be featured. Yes, this is a big deal.

This year we will hide a transmitter on the park grounds and have some equipment you may use to find it. Try out Foxhunting. It’s fun!

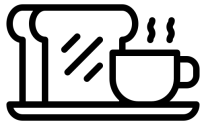
Thanks to Pete, Heather, Dave, and Dani for organizing it again this year.

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 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!

KC9HYY

AB1Z

K9UET

KD9NXG

W9LOL

KD9KHV

KD1Z

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!

[LRA Happy Hour Net](#)

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This space was intentionally left blank since I had nothing important to say 😊

What are our members up to now?

From Sean, KD9VMO:

Just sharing my experience with Friday night's storm.

The Princeton EF-53 end fed half wave antenna going from my house to a tree 'blew up' during the storm. We had a lightning strike in my across-the-street neighbor's yard. At the same time the transformer to my EFHW exploded in a fiery flash. It's was near a window, so all three of us in the house saw it.

The splash of electricity at first appeared to do a number on my house, but turns out we immediately lost phase 1 of the power. Of course over the next 24 hours I ended up inspecting/testing most of the wiring, appliances and devices throughout the house.

The only losses were a handful of LED lightbulbs, a cable internet modem, and the EFHW antenna.

The antenna was grounded to the main house rod. However, there are no signs of damage on either the antenna wire, coax, or lightning arrestor. The gas cartridge is still intact. Only the transformer seems to be affected. All of it is going in the trash and will be replaced.

I was expecting to see damage throughout the entire antenna system.



Tom, W9FL, shared a picture of his new 6 meter beam. He tells me he's worked 35 states and 6 countries already! Tom also sent me a picture of some (but not all) of his radios:



Ryan, K9NBG, is taking an epic road trip with his family this week:

OTO EPIC ROAD TRIP 2023
July 24 through August 7

United States

Destinations of Interest:

- Mt Rushmore
- Spearfish Canyon
- Devils Tower
- Nana and Papa's House
- Duck Creek Ranch
- Mall of America
- Spam Museum
- The Badlands
- Wall Drug
- Jewel Cave

Three small photographs showing people on the road trip. The first photo shows a group of people standing in front of a large rock formation. The second photo shows a group of people standing in front of a sign that says 'ROUTE 160'. The third photo shows a group of people standing in front of a large rock formation.

Bill, KD1Z, raises Monarch butterflies in his spare time when he's not moderating the Happy Hour Un-Net or out sailing on Lake Michigan. Bill sent me a lot of pictures of Monarch caterpillar poop (I will spare you those) and this shot regarding the Monarch's limited habitat. If you see this plant in your yard, don't cut it down!



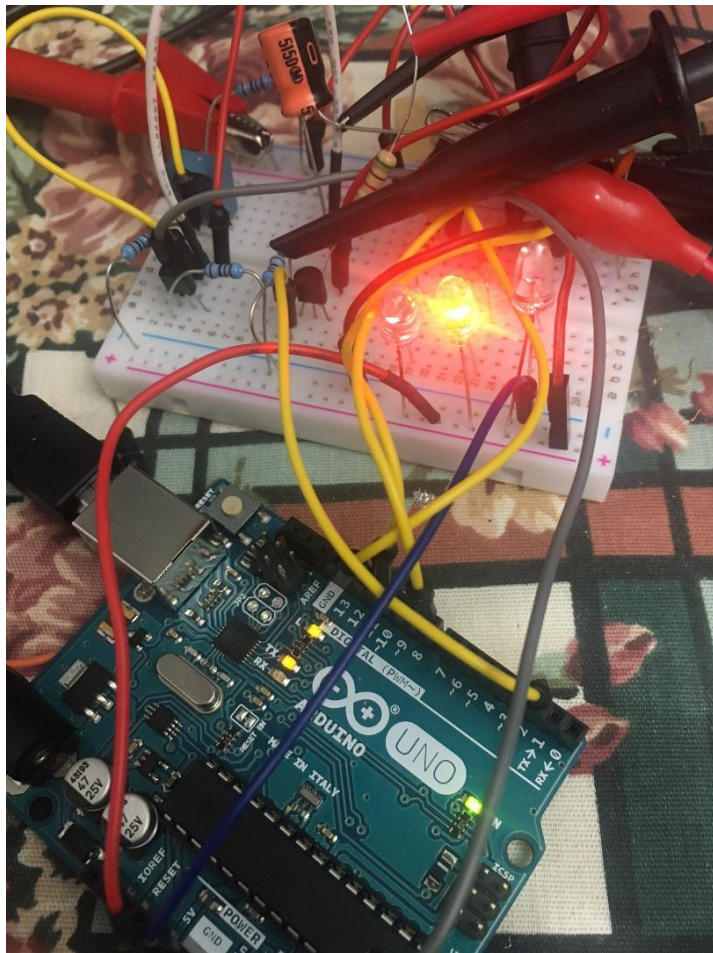
Bruce, K9WBT, just came back from a week in the North woods of Wisconsin visiting family nearby. He found the perfect place to operate. Not a POTA operation I don't think, but pretty nice all the same:



Jeff, KC9JOB, and I continue to improve our Foxhunting skills. We actually found both foxes (VHF and UHF) last month during the LRA hunt and no search parties were sent out. Our Latest TDOA direction finding equipment has proven itself a winner, even being able to accurately track the “mad kerchunker”. Several of these are in possession of MIA members now thanks to Jeff building several.

They suffer from one bad thing though: the nulls are great, but they are ambiguous in that you don't know if the transmitter is ahead of you or behind you. Jeff and I took it upon ourselves to solve that problem since we marched in the wrong direction across the baseball fields last week wasting vital competitive Foxhunt minutes.

I realized that if I could somehow measure the phase of the received audio and compare it to the switching waveform I could eliminate the ambiguity. Setting my billion programming monkeys on the problem and designing a new interface, I came up with this working prototype interfaced to a simple Arduino UNO. I predict that Jeff will take this mess and make it into something that looks truly marvelous in the next few weeks:



... and speaking of **Jeff, KC9JOB**, he spent last weekend camping up in Oshkosh at the air show. 50 mph winds on the first night tore out his tent stakes and he had to fix his collapsed tent in the pouring rain that followed. But he said he had fun:



Did You Know?

- **That the word “HAM”** as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless station operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club? They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy, and Poogie Murray. At first they called their station “HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY”. Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to “HY-AL-MY”, using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signal from amateur wireless station “HY-ALMU” and a Mexican ship named “HYALMO”. They then decided to use only the first letter of each name and the station CALL became “HAM”. (A theory according to FlexRadio)
- **That Chat GPT** can write software for you? No need to fear those projects that require programming any more. Check it out here: [A billion monkeys out of a job](#)



- **That you must have an FCC FRN** number now to be able to take FCC license exams? That's especially important for first-timers!
[How to get an FCC FRN number](#)
- **That the ARRL** is considering increasing the cost of Life Membership?

Other activities:

The famous Huntsville, Al. hamfest is this month, starting on August 19
[Huntsville Hamfest](#)

Contesting



From DX Engineering:

North American QSO Party, SSB:

August 20, 1800Z to August 21, 0559Z. All amateur licensees are eligible to work as many North American stations as possible during the 12-hour contest period.

ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY: August 21, 1800Z to 2359Z. From the ARRL, the Rookie Roundups “encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience

competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators—either on the air or in person.”

Don’t forget that details of all contests can be found on the CONTEST CALENDAR [HERE](#)

DX News:

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

Any idea where **Pelau** is? Answer that question by working JA6UBY as T88RR and JH6JWE as T88HV this month.

Predicted solar flux

From the ARRL Propagation bulletin (K7RA):

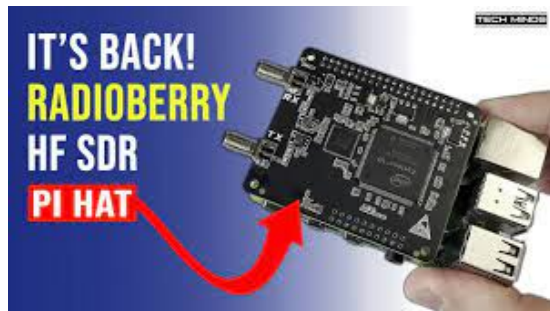
Wow! Look at these solar flux predictions for August. Remember, just last year we were in the 70’s:

The solar flux forecast sees values at 165 and 162 on July 28-29, 158 on July 30-31, then 155 on August 1-3, then 165, 170 and 175 on August 4-6, 180 on August 7-10, 175 on August 11-13, 180 on August 14-15, 175 on August 16-18, 170 on August 19, then 165, 165 and 160 on August 20-22, and 155 on August 23-26, 160 on August 27, 165 on August 28-30, 170 and 175 on August 31 through September 1, and 180 on September 2-6.

Stuff You Need (?) Department:

Bill, KD1Z, sent me a link describing the Raspberry Pi HF SDR hat. It's back!

[RPI HF SDR HAT](#)



Tom, W9FL, bought one of these refurbished 1600w inverter/generator sets for only \$250. He has two of them now and says they work great. Here's a link: [Inverter Generator](#)



Tom also found a gas leak in his home using an inexpensive gas leak detector he found for \$22 on Amazon:



Might be a good thing to have around.

Fred, K9SO
VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

ADDENDA

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HAMFESTS NEAR WISCONSIN (from ARRL member's and LAARC newsletters):

August 12, 2023 – CVARC 2023 Hamfest Location: Chippewa Falls, WI Sponsor: Chippewa Valley
Amateur Radio Club Website: <https://w9cva.org/hamfest>

August 12, 2023 - Megacycle Club Freefest. Caledonia, Wisconsin. We'll be setting up at the Greater
Racine Kennel Club located at 6320 Six Mile Rd. Caledonia WI, 53402 GPS: N.42-48-51, W.87-51-24
Plenty of parking, inside and outside vending, rain or shine. 6am to 1pm.
Talk in 147.270 +PL 127.3
Bring your own tables and chairs.

August 26, 2023 – Circus City Swapfest Location: Baraboo, WI Sponsor: Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio
Club Website: <http://yellowthunder.org/>

September 9, 2023 – ORC Annual Regional Fall Swapfest Location: Cedarburg, WI Sponsor: Ozaukee
Radio Club Website: <https://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/>

September 22-23, 2023 – HRO Superfest / State Convention Location: Milwaukee, WI Sponsor: HRO
Milwaukee Website: Not Provided

November 4, 2023 – ARES Conference / Wisconsin Section Convention Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Sponsor: ARRL Wisconsin Section - ARES Website: <https://wi-arrrl.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>

HRO Superfest, ARRL Wisconsin State Convention
09/22/2023
Location: Ham Radio Outlet Milwaukee 5710 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI
53201

VE Testing Sessions:

Delavan WI 53115-1932

Sponsor: The Lakes Area ARC

Date: Aug 19 2023

Time: 1:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

Contact: Richard C. Kardos

(262) 728-3615

Email: N9RK@VintageSSB.net

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: Community Center 826 E Geneva St Delavan WI 53115-1932