

tygLakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

Newsletter

September 1, 2023

109 members strong!

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 remainder of his term will be held as well.

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. 🚀

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](#)

Work on the proposed Walworth receive site for the 442 repeater is still in progress. **Kevin, N9OIG** 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. This is an important officer election meeting.

Taco Dinner Training Sessions

No, we won't be teaching you how to cook, but we are planning multiple Saturday afternoon technical 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



September 16 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](#)

Here's a few of our members enjoying a post-hunt lunch (not shown is **Matt, AF9Q** who took the picture):



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.

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

Bernie is working with NOAA Sulcom to set up training meetings hosted by NOAA employees for our weather spotters. They have suggested dates in January/February 2024 to meet with us!! The dates are:

- January 17
- January 24
- Feb 7
- Feb 21

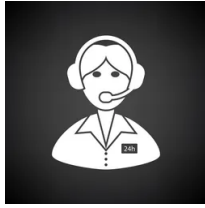
The meeting should last 90 minutes and he would like to start at 1900 hrs. Dwayne is checking to see what the location will be and we will keep you up-to-date. All amateur radio operators are encouraged to attend!

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!. 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.

Boy, did we have fun when **Bruce, K9WBT**, (our regular Thursday night moderator) took on the moderator task during his vacation in **Paris, France**. Bruce stayed up to 1:00am Paris time on Thursday, August 24. (Well, for him it was already Friday morning). Operating from his friend's Paris apartment using Icom's RS-BA1 Software to access his IC-9700 back home, Bruce set a new HH record with 50 check-ins that night.

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) this 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 access the HH net via **WB9COW/R (442.850MHz)**, both of the LRA repeaters and of course ALLSTAR.

Congratulations to the latest certificate winners, **Jim, KD9VXC, Nathan, KC9HYY, and Scott, W9AFB**. We had over 1000 check-ins again in August, and 355 hams have checked in 22000+ times since it began in December of 2020. Still going strong after all these years. Over 42 “Chickens” on one night last week and of course the record setting 50 check-ins from Paris, France. 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 was our LRA picnic and it was a great success. **Pete, K9PJC**, didn't disappoint with his handling of his smoking barbeque wagon. Pulled Pork, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and the ever-popular grilled corn dipped in butter.

This year we hid two transmitters on the park grounds and had some equipment to try our Foxhunting. It's fun! Sorry, but nobody sent me any pictures to share.

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! This week's check-ins:

K9UET
KD9NXG
KD1Z
KC9HYY
KD9KHV
K9WNG
W9LOL
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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What are our members up to now?

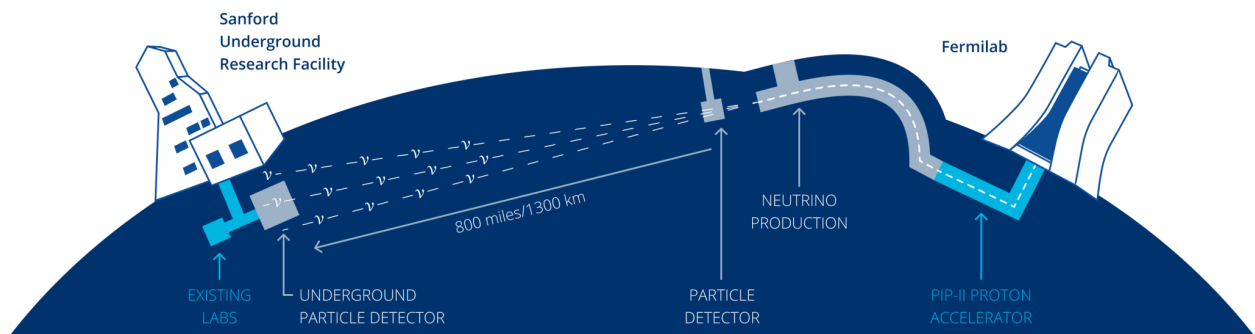
Congratulations to **Dwayne, N9PYA** for reaching the important DX milestone of 100 countries last month. He tells me he has 101 now. DXCC will be next when he gets all those confirmations.

Steve, N9SEB, took his new motorcycle up to the big gathering in Sturgis. He drove about 300 miles per day on his bike that has no windshield so he's been claiming the "Iron Butt" award. I think November 9 "Steel Enhanced Bottom" might be his new phonetics.

He got to visit the Devil's tower on the way there too:



Steve also visited the Stanford neutrino facility in South Dakota. There, Fermilab is beaming neutrinos through the earth to big underground detectors. Since neutrinos are essentially undetectable, it sounds like good government work.



Besides that, he got to see the world's largest popcorn ball and the world's largest shamrock (although that claim is disputed by others):

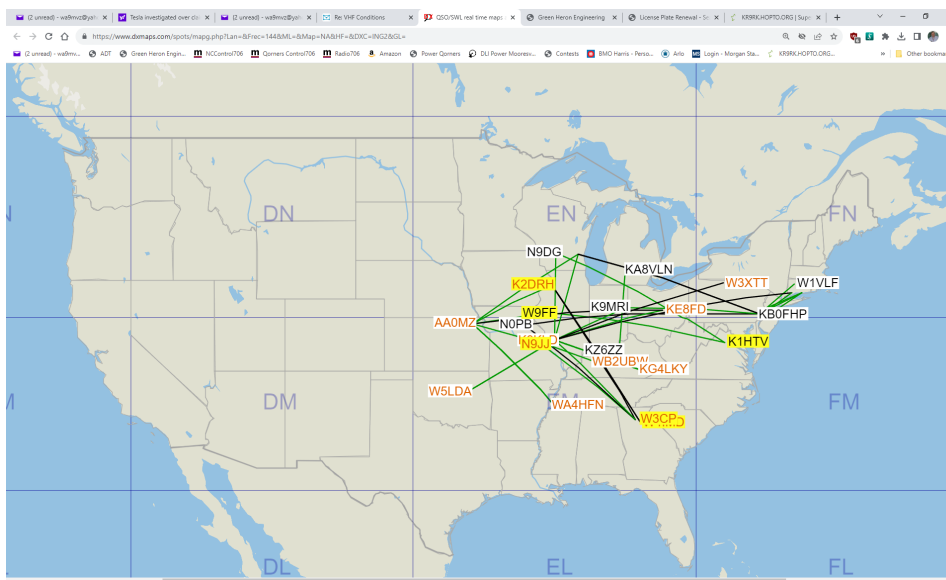


I misplaced his picture of the shamrock. I know how disappointed you all are.

Dan, WX9EMS, showed off his tractor collection to the members of the HH group:



Jason, K9QKL, and **Scott, W9AFB**, and probably many others enjoyed the huge 2m Tropo openings in August. Scott posted this “real time” map of ongoing 2m QSOs:



Jason worked **2m FT-8** and nabbed **New York, Nebraska, and Canada**. Good job!

In between band openings, **Scott, W9AFB**, went “maritime mobile” on his Kayak. He said the Fox River location between Burlington and Rt 50 was not a good one for RF but he still nabbed a QSO with **Kevin, N9OIG** on our DMR system.



Matt, AF9Q, asked if this is what I meant by a “capacity hat” during an antenna discussion. Yes, Matt, this has great capacity:



Ryan, K9NBG, and **Dwayne, N9PYA**, told me all about the monsoon rains most of us endured earlier in the month. Lots of flooded streets. I had over 4" of rain here at Q-SO Qorners.



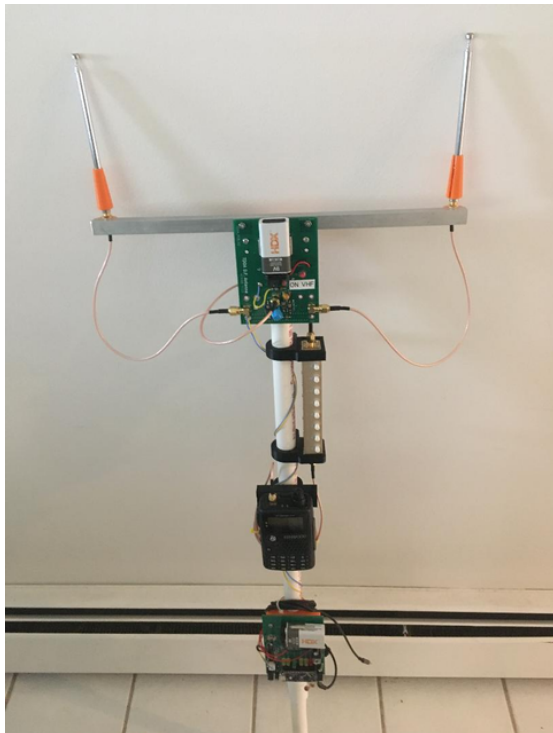
The street in front of N9PYA's house

LaValle, W9SV, finally got his new 75 foot crank-up tower installed after an almost 2 year wait. The 30m Optibeam is already on top but the monster Optibeam will be on top of that. Wow. What a system!

Jerry, N0IMJ, tells me his Jr. High kids from the Lutheran school will be back on the air on Friday, Sept 22. Stay in touch for more details, but this is a lot of fun for everyone involved. They get on the air from Jerry's classroom for about an hour every week.

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. That's what the ambiguity board aims to solve. I designed it to look at the phase of the received tone which then can be used by the software to indicate an unambiguous direction.



Top to bottom on the stalk: antennas, TDOA board, attenuator, Kenwood radio, and the new, improved, ambiguity board. (That's the main "radiator" along the bottom of the picture ... *unabashed groaner pun*).

Mike, WW9X, has offered to organize a 1 hour tour of the Wind Point lighthouse. Unfortunately, Field Day is not an option. Contact Mike or Dwayne.

"I'm looking to see if there is any interest in operating from the top of the Wind Point Lighthouse. The observation platform is about 110' above the lake level and has line of sight to Zion, IL to the South and Port Washington to the North. Probably Burlington to the West, but Michigan is over the horizon at 75 Miles to the East.

I could arrange for a group of about 10 people to climb during the day (up to 7PM) and spend about 1 hour at the top. Only small equipment like HTs and very small antennas could be used. Let me know if you would be interested in this and any dates or times that you think would work best. Sunday Sept 3 is the normal public climb day so that is already booked."



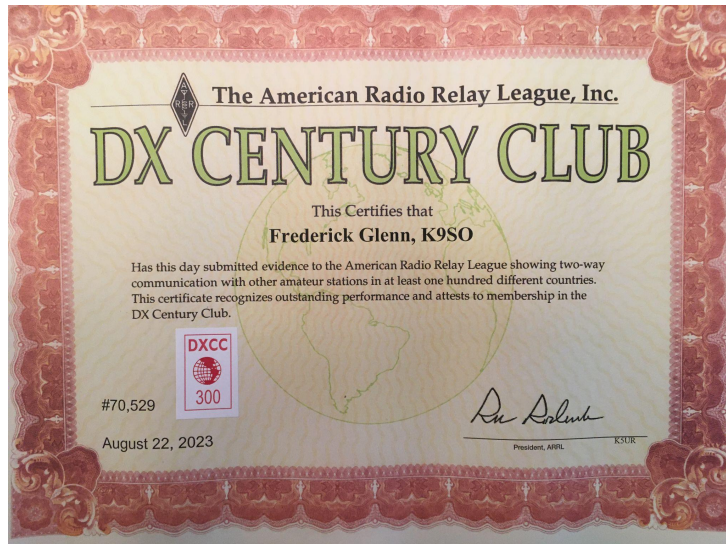
the magnificent Wind Point Lighthouse

Cole, N9CGW, was caught on a street corner looking for Skywarn work last week:



Fred, K9SO, (that's me!) I finally applied for my DXCC certificate with a 300 country endorsement sticker after 59 years of trying. It sure took me a while 😊

I've already applied for the 320 count endorsement sticker. DXCC Honor Roll currently stands at 329, but there aren't any people living in the "countries" I need to get there. I popped for the CW (319), Phone (275), and Digital certificates too. I really wanted my 9 band DXCC CW certificate which I have earned, but I have to apply for 5 band first before I can do that. ... and before I could apply for 5BDXCC, I had to get my individual DXCC certificates first. The first DXCC certificates finally arrived yesterday so I can continue this ARRL tube crawl.



Speaking of stickers, **Matt, AF9Q**, did a lot of work cleaning up our club's logo artwork and printed up some terrific stickers. See if you can talk him out of one:



Jack, W9LOL, sent me the following:

Since we have some new members, I thought I'd repost this...Just wanted to let the group know I'm starting to archive some AllStar nets on my website for those who might have missed the nets live. At this point, I have 5 nets. I may add more if time permits. The nets on the archive are:

Absolute Tech Net, Antenna Net, Allnode Net, PAPA Tech Net, ARRL Audio News

To access the audio, go to w9lol.com and click on the lower-left block called "AllStar Archives"

Did You Know?

- **...that Hams**, in the first official frequency allocation meeting, were initially given access to "200 meters and down," meaning frequencies whose wavelengths were shorter than 200m? In other words, EVERYTHING above about 1.5MHz was given to us. These bands were deemed "useless" for commercial and government use. A favorite quote was "give them everything below 200 meters ... they'll never get out of their backyards with that!"
Unknown to the regulators at the time, the HF bands above about 1.5MHz turned out to be ideal for world-wide communication via ionospheric propagation (lucky hams!). The hams showed them the way.
- **...that** the cost of sending a message by telegraphy was at one time quite exorbitant? As a result, messages by telegraph became concise, to the point, and made use of many acronyms that are today associated with internet chat and text messaging to save on word count. These, too, were brought to common usage in amateur radio. Imagine the mortification of the teenager who learns her great grandpa was using terms such as OMG nearly 100 years ago. The Titanic tragedy highlighted the use of the wireless code "CQD", which was an internationally recognized distress call. This later migrated into the more familiar "SOS."
- **...how to make a neutrino beam?** Maybe some good DX opportunities. Click [HERE](#) to find out how. You can bury your neutrino antennas in solid rock. Good for HOAs
- **...that** there are more than 3 MILLION Ham radio operators worldwide?
- **...that in 2019:** Average ARRL Member was 68 years old. 54% are Extra Class, 31% General Class. Average Nonmember is 52 years old.

Other activities:

Contesting



Always a lot of contests going on, but one caught my attention: “**VHF-UHF FT-8 Activity Contest**”. Sounds interesting, especially for IC-9700 owners. Dates are:

2m: Sept 6

432MHz: Sept 13

1.2GHz: Sept 20

All times are 1700z- 2100z

Another good one coming up this month is the **ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF contest** September 9-11. **Contest Period:** Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 0259 UTC Monday.

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](#)

Publications:

The ARRL periodical *QST* is the main amateur radio magazine and the League represents our only political voice. In the **DID YOU KNOW** section of this newsletter, you'll 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.

This month in *QST*: “*Operating HF digital voice is now easier than ever, and FreeDV software can help. Read “Digital Voice the Easy Way” by Ira Brodsky, KC9TC, to find out what the software can do for you, as well as how to set it up. [Read QST](#)” (members only link)*”

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

Make special note of September DXpeditions in **Eastern Kiribati, Chatham Is, and Lord Howe Is.** Good catches, even for me.

Where IS Eastern Kiribati after all? Find out [HERE](#)

How about a QSO with North Cook Island? These guys on the E51D DXpedition going on now are DOIN' IT RIGHT! Check out the amphibious pontoon boat. Too cool.

They landed their transmitters on the Penrhyn Atoll of the N. Cook Island chain last week and have been active on all modes. **Interesting note: the operators are operating remotely!**



Predicted solar flux

From the ARRL Propagation bulletin (K7RA):

Wow! Look at these solar flux predictions for September. Good DX conditions all month! Remember, just last year we were in the 70's:

Predicted solar flux is 145 on August 30-31, then 165, 163 and 160 on September 1-3, 162 on September 4-5, 158 on September 6-7, then 160 and 162 on September 8-9, 158 on September 10-11, 155 on September 12, 152 on September 13-15, 153 on September 16-18, 155 on September 19, and 158 on September 20-23, 162 on September 24-25, 165 on September 26-28, then 163 and 160 on September 29-30.

Stuff You Need (?) Department:



A cool metal sign \$18.99 on ETSY.

We all enjoy our 807's (Ham lingo for 'beer'). Here's a real regenerative receiver using a real one for only \$130. What's a "regenerative receiver"? Find out [HERE](#)

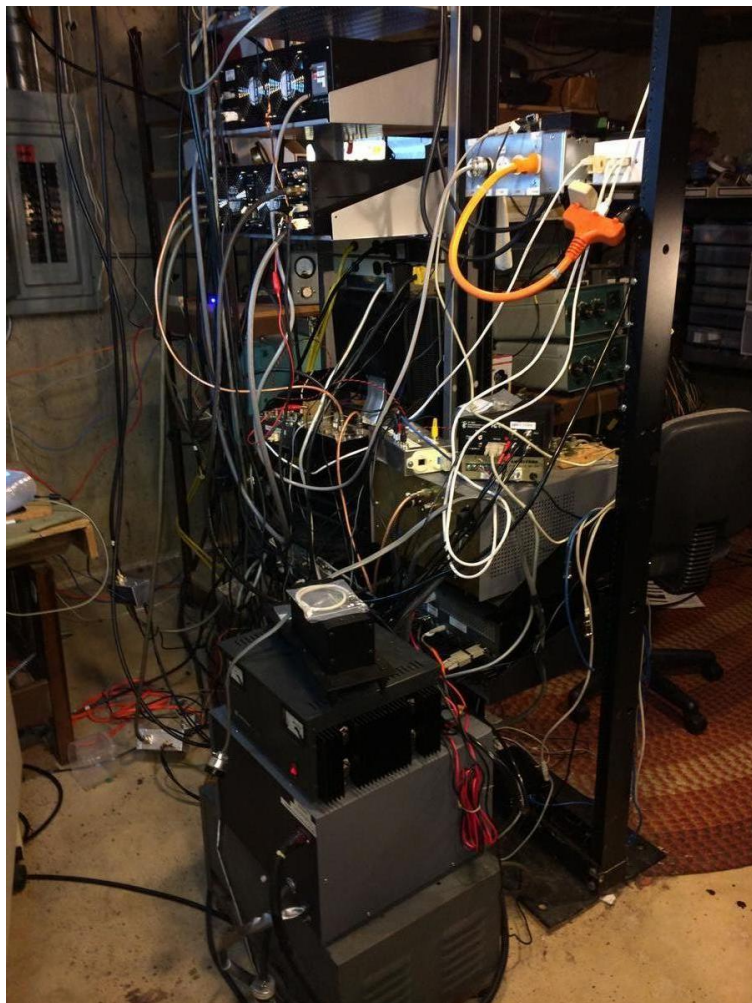


..or maybe a gift for that special someone on the repeater:

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 to me at VP@KR9RK.COM or better still, post on the HH forum and I'll pick them up from there.

October will be shack picture month. Here's mine, just the way I like it:



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

ADDENDA: HAMFESTS NEAR US

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

September 24, 2023 - CFMC Hamfest Belvedere, IL.

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:

09/11/2023 | [Libertyville IL 60048-1308](#)

Sponsor: Lake County RACES/ ARES

Location: Lake County EOC CLASSROOM

Time: 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

09/23/2023 | [Milwaukee WI 53223-4736](#)

Sponsor: MRAC VEC, INC.

Location: Ham Radio Outlet

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

EXAM SESSION

09/24/2023 | [Belvidere IL 61008](#)

Sponsor: Chicago FM Club

Location: Boone County Fairgrounds - Hamfest

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

[Learn More](#)

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
