



Headline news: Christmas Party Dec 10. Signup by Dec 5 [HERE](#) Foxhunt is Tomorrow!

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

Newsletter

December 1, 2023

119 members strong!

It's renewal time. Visit KR9RK.COM and get those 2024 dues paid up. We're doing some exciting things these days. It costs money to run this organization and we need dues paying members to continue their great support. Don't forget to participate in our annual fundraisers like the summer picnic and Christmas parties.

Best to renew now at KR9RK.COM. [RENEW HERE NOW](#) If you don't renew in December, this may be your last newsletter. Those members whose memberships are expiring will soon receive a reminder notice via the email address we have on record.

Welcome to our newest members:

- Kevin Rosciszewski N9XRR
- Andy Wiesner KD9YTL
- Scott Grams W9AFB
- Richard Hawthorne W9ABE

Michael, KM6RRS, has become our first California resident member. Thanks for your support Michael!

This month I welcome our guest columnists Brad, N9BJB, Jason, K9QKL, and Scott, W9AFB. Read their newsletter contributions below. I'm always looking forward to hearing from you. Send your newsletter contributions to me at VP@KR9RK.COM

From the board



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

Recall that **Dave, NP2I** is stepping down from the Treasurer's position after many years of service but he has graciously extended his duties until after the January Quarterly membership meeting. An election will be held at that meeting to choose someone to fill his term expiring in October, 2024. A full 2-year term election for President and Treasurer will take place at that time.

Our MIA and Discipline committees have completed their immediate work. **Steve, N9SEB**, who very successfully led the MIA group over the past year is stepping down as Chairperson so we will be looking for his replacement. Steve will continue to be a valued member of the MIA committee. Steve also chaired the bylaws committee earlier this year. Thanks to him for his great leadership and service in 2023.

From our President:

Hello Members, and fellow HAM Operators!!

I would like to extend warm wishes for a joyous and safe Christmas and New Year to everyone!

I take pride in being a part of the numerous changes and modernization initiatives our organization has undergone during my tenure as President. I am particularly proud to collaborate with an excellent group of board members who function seamlessly as a team!

Regrettably, we will bid farewell to a dedicated volunteer and KR9RK's Treasurer of the past 10 years, who will be retiring from his position in January 2024. A heartfelt thank

you to Dave (NP2I) for his outstanding contributions!

I eagerly anticipate collaborating with the individual who volunteers and is elected to assume his role. As a cohesive team, we can provide a great opportunity for a new member to join us in maintaining the positive and forward direction we all aspire to uphold.

Please join us in celebrating the Christmas Holiday December 10th 2023 at Tailgaters. I look forward to seeing everyone there!!!

Regards,

Dwayne Devore

President, Lakeshore Repeater Association

Website Updates:

Thanks to the efforts of our Secretary, **Matt, AF9Q**, the LRA website has undergone an update, now featuring a designated space for club members. To access this section, club members can log in by visiting the KR9RK.com website and clicking on the "Login" link located within the "Club members" section on the left side. Once on the login page, simply scroll down to find the "Forgot your password?" link, where you can input the email address you used during the registration process. This will trigger the sending of a password reset link to your email address. We are actively working on enhancing the content and making updates to both the public and members areas, so we encourage you to check back regularly for the latest developments.

We have decided to post the newsletters almost immediately after publication to the members rather than delaying publication to the public (non-members) for a month. I hope that prospective members will enjoy the read and you will consider joining. .

Volunteering



Call For Volunteers:

Volunteers are still NEEDED for these KR9RK Activities: LRA Treasurer, Teaching session scheduler, and Taste of Field Day.

THIS IS BECOMING A SERIOUS ISSUE! Many of our current volunteers are in danger of being overloaded with work. Over and over the same people step up. This cannot continue as we fear a burnout. We have lots of plans for 2024 but without an increase in our volunteer base, they're not going to happen.

If you would like to be heard in regards to where the club is heading, being a volunteer is a necessary first step. Be responsive if asked.

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 veil of secrecy with secret handshakes... **IT MEANS YOU HAVEN'T VOLUNTEERED!**

Contact any board member or committee chairperson for more information. Attending our quarterly meetings is necessary but it is not sufficient. If you don't join in, you're missing out on a lot of fun.

Our LRA Accomplishments in 2023:

- A greatly expanded monthly newsletter with a growing list of contributors has kept our members informed and engaged.
- We formed a MIA search committee that successfully tracked down the source of our malicious interference and documented it with hard evidence.
- The Happy Hour, now beginning its fourth year, continues to provide a fun and welcoming space for members and non-members alike to connect. The MAARS group in Milwaukee joined us this year.
- Our repeaters may now be linked via ALLSTAR upon operator's command.
- We successfully reviewed, updated, and approved the club's new bylaws, ensuring our governance remains aligned with our evolving needs.
- We modernized our back-office operations by adopting Google Workspace, enhancing efficiency and streamlining processes.
- LRA website URLs are now owned by the club rather than one individual ensuring smooth successions in the future.
- Our club's website underwent a comprehensive update, reflecting our modern approach and providing an enhanced user experience.
- We launched 12 monthly highly successful hidden transmitter "Fox Hunt" events, fostering camaraderie and engagement among members.
- We jointly sponsored our first Hamfest in association with the neighboring LAARC club in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.
- The Kenosha/Racine RACES/ARES group has rejoined us with regular nets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- We completed a purchase of our state-of-the-art Motorola repeater equipment that had only been on loan to us for years. Over \$5000 was raised in a successful GoFundMe event.

Upcoming Initiatives:

- "Taste of Field Day": This late June ARRL event will introduce prospective members to emergency radio operations and foster a sense of community.
- Expanding participation in the Elkhorn Freefest in early June.
- "Taco Tech": This innovative initiative will combine technology education with a fun and engaging taco-themed event.
- Short, relevant technical presentations and show/tell demonstrations preceding our quarterly membership meetings to make them more interesting.
- Continuation of the "Fox Hunt": Building upon its success, the "Fox Hunt" will continue to provide a regular monthly opportunity for members to connect and engage.

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 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. This effort will get more legs during the winter months.
- With a bit of re-wiring, NOAA extreme weather alerts will now also be sent over the 442.000 UHF repeater and not just via the 2m machine.
- Links to other area repeaters are growing and may be identified by the repeater's distinctive reset tones. If you're listening to the UHF repeater, a Morse "B" will be sent if the other party is linked via WB9COW's Burlington site. Likewise a "V" is sent when linked from the 2m machine and a "M" from Milwaukee's "mighty 513" repeater. Other reset tones may be heard occasionally as experiments with other sites continue. Those linking via Allstar create the high pitched "NASA BEEP" made famous during the moon landings.

Keep in mind that we have a total of 3 receive sites associated with our 2m repeater. There are no distinctive identifiers to let you know which site you are hitting but via noise voting, the strongest 2m signal will win out on that machine. All other rules as outlined below still apply.

I've often been asked about link priorities, especially during Happy Hour linking. They work like this:

If you're listening on UHF, all UHF radio signals will cover any other RF inputs from 2m. That means a 2m signal will be completely blocked on the UHF repeater if a UHF signal is present.

Similarly, if you're listening on VHF, all VHF radio signals will cover any other RF inputs from UHF. UHF signals will not be repeated on the 2m machine if a 2m signal is present.

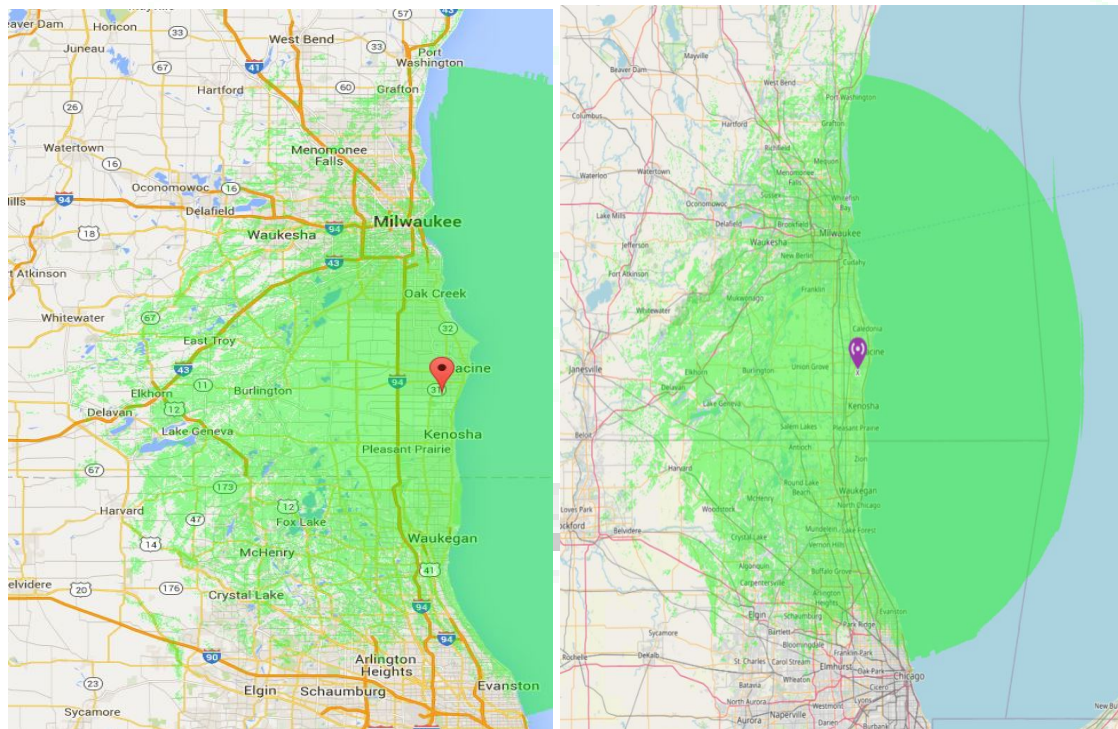
RF inputs into the local repeaters will take precedence over Allstar linked repeaters.

Allstar inputs get mixed into the audio at all times and you may hear mixed “doubling” if someone talks via Allstar when someone else is on RF. Allstar audio is significantly lower when this happens and is often covered up by the RF linked audio.

This may sound confusing, but it’s best to know which repeater the moderator of Happy Hour is using if you want to be heard first in the startup “pileup”.

Coverage areas:

This is the coverage we have calculated for our UHF and 2m repeaters including terrain effects. These may be examined more closely on our ever expanding website, KR9RK.COM (UHF on the left)



WE Energies Receive Site Correction:

Last month I showed pictures of **Gene, WB9ZKY**, installing the “new” battery heater at the site and the picture was dated 2014. Gene corrected me by saying that 2014 was only a maintenance effort and that the site had actually been active for nearly a decade at that time! Gene is our “Director Emeritus” recognizing his decades of service to LRA.

Union Grove 2m receive site:

Union Grove equipment location pictures taken on June 8, 2018.

The transmit/receive equipment is located on the West wall of the pump house entry room.

Coax travels from the building to the tank on a messenger cable and then travels up along the ladder supports to the antennas.

The UHF antenna is mounted on the catwalk rail on the East side.

The VHF antenna is mounted on the overflow pipe on the South side of the tank roof in the location indicated in the photos.



But whatever you do, don't look down!



Quarterly Membership Meeting January 30, 2024

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 tech talk will begin at 6:45 sharp**. This is an important officer election meeting as our new Treasurer will be elected. New members must wait 30 days after their application in order to vote. Members must be physically present to vote per the bylaws.

We will have 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.**

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



Will we have a quorum?

Tech Talk Training Sessions: Jan 15 NOAA

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 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.



LRA Member Activities:

Foxhunts



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

Saturday, December 2 is our next LRA foxhunt. That's tomorrow morning guys! In addition to being a training ground for our MIA committee, this is a lot of fun. Keep in touch and follow the action at KR9RK.ORG. Better still, JOIN US! **We really need greater participation for this to continue as it is a lot of work for the organizers.** Last month only one hunt team participated. 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, is our SKYWARN coordinator for the LRA. The winter months are a great time to get your certifications. You won't want to miss the first In-Person Tech talk from NOAA on January 15 (7:00pm at the Sturtevant Police station). The meeting should last about 90 minutes. It will 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



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, 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 64 of them decorating hamshack walls as of today.

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 442 MHz 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 and a new record of 54 checkins was set. 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, **Scott, W9AFB**, and **Steve, N9FSE**. We had just under 1000 check-ins again in November, and 355 hams have checked in 25,500+ times since recorded history began in December of 2020. Still going strong after all these years. Enjoy our afternoon “QRB” time at 5:30pm local time during the happy hour with your favorite “807” at 1/2 price.

Important LRA Dates:

December 10: LRA Christmas Party

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Dec 5

HO HO HO! It is time to make your reservations for the annual LRA Christmas party. This is the most joyous, family friendly, LRA event of the year! Don't miss it. The Party will be on December 10th once again at

Tailgaters Bar & Grill.

1-800-833-1234
7641 Hwy 38

Beautiful Caledonia, WI 53108

The party will start at 5:00 with an hour of socializing and getting to know those who may only be a "voice in the box" up 'till now. The cash bar will be available to anyone of legal drinking age. Sorry Ryan.

The buffet dinner will be served at 6:00. The menu will be the same as the one we all raved about last year:

Sam's fantastic roast beef (you have never tasted better)

Tailgater's amazing fried chicken (kept disappearing and was constantly re-stocked)

Sides of mashed potatoes and coleslaw. a fruit tray and bread and butter.

After dinner Dwayne will, probably, give a speech or two and THEN.....

Heather (WD9DHM) will MC the high point of the evening:

THE LRA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

All attending members and guests are urged (but not required) to participate in this fun event. Bring a wrapped gift to exchange with the other attendees at the party. It need not be expensive. It can even be goofy. The only requirement is that the package be wrapped and clearly marked to indicate that it would appeal most to an OM or to a YL. Don't be a grinch. If you didn't bring one don't take one!

When Danni & I went to finalize the arrangements for the party I was sure that the price would have to increase because the prices for everything else (especially food) have gone up so dramatically over the year. However, Kim (co-owner of Tailgaters) agreed to keep the cost the same as last year. I consider Tailgaters to be supporters of LRA!

The cost of a ticket will remain at \$25.00 per person this year.

This can be paid through PayPal or by sending a check to the LRA Post Office box.

Please don't delay. The seasons will fly by and the party will be here before you know it!

If you have questions check with:

Dave (NP2I), Pete (K9PJC), or Heather (WD9DHM)

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.





How do I do that? **Operating activity columns:**

Please send me information on any and all activities during the month in [these](#) categories below. Experts needed! Post on the forum and I'll pick it up.

Winlink Wednesday



Bruce, K9WBT, has been leading a local Winlink Wednesday Radio Email activity. There has been growing participation. 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](#)]. Last week's check-ins included those below.

KD1Z
K9SO
KC9HYY
AB1Z
N9UUO
N9BJB
N9SEB
WX9EMS
K9WBT (NCS)

WIRES-X

From Brad, N9BJB:

I recently completed a Wires-X setup using my FTM-300, HRI-200 and Windows laptop with Yaesu's software. This has allowed me to digital DX all over the world via the Wires-X rooms without the need for a Fusion equipped repeater. The setup was slightly challenging (it is Yaesu after all) but once I got the router configured and ports assigned it was smooth sailing. I feel that it was a good project being newer to ham radio and educated me on the digital modes available.

When I finally decided to get my Technician license in 2020 I didn't have an Elmer or anyone in my orbit to break down the different avenues available. I did quite a bit of stumbling figuring some of this stuff out, but setting this up helped me gain an understanding of the other aspects of this hobby and has pushed me further into exploring HF and has given me the ambition to upgrade to General soon.

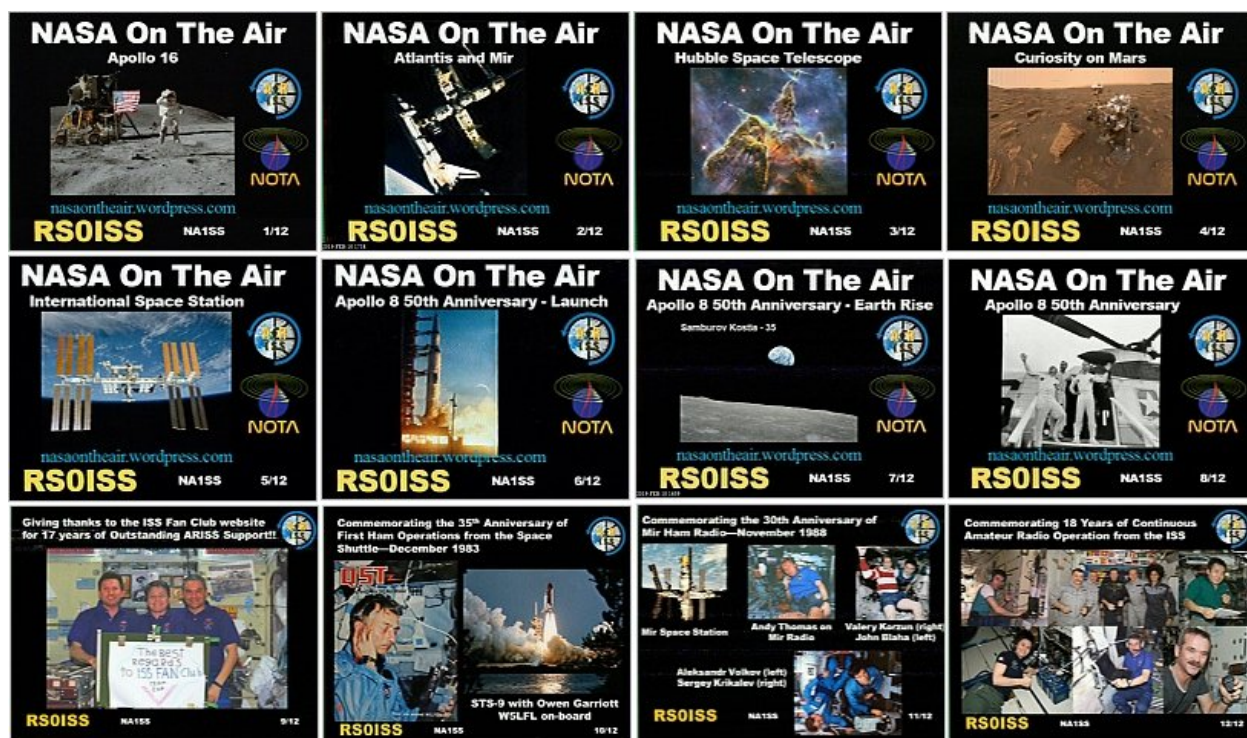
SSTV

Mike, K9MWG, pointed me to HF SSTV activity on 14.230 MHz. Here's my first received image from a W1AW/5 VOTA station calling CQ. I'm using MMSSTV software.



DEMO MMSSTV [\[HERE\]](#)

I also asked Ryan for information on how he receives SSTV signals from the ISS. This is what he posted on the HH forum. Here are some images sent by the ISS astroHAMS:



The simplest way to decode these is using the Robot36 app on Android or iPhone/iPad. Simply tune a radio to 145.800 and wait for the music then put your device near your speaker and you will see line by line images drawn. I believe it's 2 minutes on and 2 minutes off.

I attached a terrible websdr recording from a station in Georgia I have in my favorites of the pass that just happened if you want to play around with it.

What I have done in the past is recorded the broadcast from my Kenwood TH-D74 while watching the decode on my phone to adjust my antenna position for clarity, then plugged the radio into my laptop and played back the recording to have it decode for a much cleaner image.

I have decoded SSTV from ISS just my handheld and 19" whip, driving 65mph on the highway from my mobile radio, using an Arrow II, using a homemade ground plane antenna on a cardboard stick, and using an old TV antenna I converted into a 5 element 2m antenna. This is a lot of fun and in the past I had created a photoshop template with drop in layers so you can put your received images. There are also lots of digital certs you can get from various world wide clubs.

Android - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=xdsopl.robot36>

iPhone - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sstv-slow-scan-tv/id387910013>

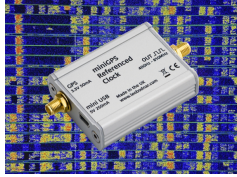
Nathan, KC9HYY asks: Anyone running a Yaseu FTDX10 and doing SSTV? I'm trying to set it up, but MMSSTV nor Easy Pal won't allow me to select the proper com ports for the radio to control. Windows 10 for OS. Help is much appreciated!

WSJT-X

Setting up the IC- 9700 is confusing at best. Even harder for FT-8. Here's a good summary on how to do it:

[IC-9700 FT-8 setup]

If using an IC-9700, a GPS oscillator is a must: [[Leo Bodnar High Stability Kit for IC-9700](#)]. The IC-9700 doesn't have the frequency stability needed for FT-8 without it.



Here's a link on how to setup the FT-991 too: [\[FT-991 FT-8 setup\]](#)

Who's doing 2m FT-8? Keep me advised for this FT-8 newsletter column.

Jason, K9QKL, tells me that he has worked nearly 600 miles on his 2m vertical:

Exploring 2m FT8, a versatile mode accessible to all license classes, requires just a computer-connected radio and an antenna. While a horizontally polarized antenna suits certain scenarios, a vertical one can be equally effective.

Challenges arise due to VHF's line-of-sight nature, impacting transmission distances. Weather variations, including fog and temperature inversions, play a crucial role in propagation.

Noteworthy QSOs include reaching Adam's County, Nebraska (595 miles) and Virginia (582 miles).

Essential software like WSJT-X and platforms such as pskreporter.info and aprs.mennolink.org/map aid in monitoring activity and propagation results on 2m.

Early weekend mornings, particularly between 7 am and 11 am, showcase heightened activity. Here's to connecting on the airwaves!

Best regards,
DE K9QKL

POTA

Scott, W9AFB

My latest POTA adventure for November was to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, south of Joliet, Illinois. Previously, this area was the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant consisting of over 20,000 acres of land. It has been redeveloped over the last number of years and I had been wanting to go there to do some hiking and explore the old plant. In mid November, the weather was nice and I took the drive down there.

Being a military history buff, I wanted to set up the station on or near one of the old ammunition bunkers. I scouted out the google satellite pictures and picked out a couple of sites before heading down. For this POTA activation, I backpacked my station into the site. The setup consisted of the Xiegu G90 (20w radio), end fed wire antenna, 24' collapsible fiberglass pole, 7aH battery, and some odds and ends for setting up.

After picking out a bunker, I climbed to the top and set up the station. There was a concrete ventilation structure on top, so I just strapped the fiberglass pole to that and added a few guy lines for stability. The balun was located on the other side of the bunker roof and I ran the coax back to my operating spot. This activation was SSB only.

Decided to start on 40m first with it being late morning. Made 10 contacts there, all regional as expected. Then moved to 10 and 12m to try to get some DX. Worked a handful of stations there, including Chile, Germany, and England. One of the highlights was working a Aero Mobile on 10m. He was in a Boeing 737 somewhere out in the western US. Then down to 15 and 17m where I made 13 more contacts around the US, Spain, and Italy. Finished up on 20m. That is the insanity band for POTA. If you want to make contacts fast and have a pileup as an activator, that's the place to be. In about 20 minutes, I managed 36 contacts and by that time, had enough playing radio.

Packed up my stuff and hiked back to the car to drop everything off and then went exploring around for the rest of the afternoon. The area is huge and there's a lot of places to check out. The temperatures were in the mid 60s, so all in all, it was a great Autumn day in the Midwest to play radio and enjoy the outdoors. There are a number of other POTA sites down that direction, so you can hit a few of those also. I did do 2 more quick activations from the car on the way home. That's all for this write up. I will probably talk about how I got started in POTA next time. – Scott



AURORA

This just in from **Scott, W9AFB**: “ Point those with 6m yagis (maybe even 2m), point them north [tonight] and see what you can get!

Here is a clip that I recorded close to 20 years ago of K9MU working Aurora SSB on SIX. “

[\[https://www.k9mu.com/sounds/50mhz/k9mujunecontest.mp3\]](https://www.k9mu.com/sounds/50mhz/k9mujunecontest.mp3) [hear that distinctive auroral “gargle” -ed]

ALLSTAR

Received from our Allstar chairperson **Kevin, N9OIG**: “I ... put a video up on our Facebook page doing the setup of DVSwitch on an Android device. A link to the video is [\[HERE\]](#)

SATELLITE

LaValle, W9SV who is out by Genoa City is our best source for working the satellites. There are two kinds of satellites besides the ISS: FM and Linear. The FM birds are a lot like working repeaters and you end up with massive pileups like we have at the start of HH. Linear is harder to set up, but a lot more fun for me. You can actually have QSOs lasting several minutes rather than several seconds. I’ve worked into Europe on the linear birds.

If using an IC-9700, a GPS oscillator is a must: [\[Leo Bodnar High Stability Kit for IC-9700\]](#)

Happy Hour Email Group on Groups.IO



We have a happy hour email reflector (“the forum”) on Groups.IO now. Dozens of 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: [\[LRA Happy Hour Net\]](#)

What are our members up to now?



Field Day 2024

A Field Day organization committee has been formed. Our first on-line meeting will be held soon. Our members are K9SO (Chair) and AC9OT W9GTH WW9X KC9JOB KC9UJO. Let me know if you'd like to be included in the planning: VP@KR9RK.COM

You do not have to be on the committee in order to participate in the FD activities in June.



Announcement from the Allstar Committee Chairman (kevin, N9OIG):

Saturday evening, Christmas Eve, we will host the Annual Santa Watch Net from 5pm to 8pm local time. This will be on both of our analog repeaters (on 442.000 and 147.270). Due to this we will run Happy Hour 1 hour early on that day. We will announce it as we get closer as a reminder. Included below is the information from DoDropIn website.

13th Annual Santa Watch Net

Well BOYS and GIRLS of ALL ages, for the 13th year in a row, the DoDropIn Radio Network is pleased to host the Santa Watch Net. As in years past, David N3NTV in Mobridge will be tracking Santa's flight around the world. And Santa call sign "N1S" aka Number One Santa will have his radio with him. Santa LOVES talking to children, so third party traffic is always welcome during the Santa Watch Net. The Santa Watch Net will begin at 1800 hours ET and run for about 3 hours. We want to thank Darryl for the use of his RF link for Santa to connect to the DoDropIn. Have the little ones around so they can chat with Santa on his flight. So once again, Christmas eve starting at 1800 hours ET on the DoDropIn Radio Network.



Santa's call sign is N1S (Number 1 Santa)

Wouldn't a QSO with Santa Claus be neat? Be sure to tune in on Christmas Eve at 5:00pm

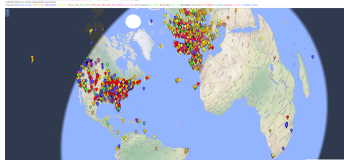
Build your own! (Member's projects)



Jeff, KC9JOB rebuilt the control board for his paper shredding machine. He built up a computerized control board to replace the original. Here's the schematic: [[shredder controller](#)]

Jeff also added a remote clamp-on antenna accessory for his famous “fox boxes” (picture above). This will see the first action during tomorrow’s Foxhunt. This is designed to clamp on highway signs or tree limbs allowing for unattended operations.

Jason, K9QKL, told me about an interesting method he uses to evaluate antennas using FT-8 on any band: apparently you can assign yourself the “special” callsigns of /P and /M. Hook up one antenna using your regular callsign and call CQ. Then use one of the other callsigns and quickly evaluate a different antenna. Using PSK Reporter, look up the different callsigns used and see which antenna works better.



[[PSKReporter](#)]

Kevin, N9OIG, inspired by my original “RetroRig” boxes, built up a remote head portable access box for his Kenwood TS-2000 radio (picture below on left). These use the hard to find RemoteRig boxes [[RemoteRig](#)] that sell for about \$450/pair.

Brad, K9WNG (picture below on right), and **Tom, W9FL** (no picture) have also built similar systems.



My original “RetroRig” boxes, now almost 4 years old (one for the IC-706 and the other for a Kenwood TS-2000 and D-700A), are shown below. Of course I got carried away with my IC-706 network as I am known to do [[K9SO Page](#)] with 5 remote heads:



Copper Wire Discovered

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, British scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 200 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 150 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Brit's discovery, in the weeks that followed, a Canadian archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, published a story in the New York Times: "Canadian archaeologists, finding traces of 250-year-old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network 50 years earlier than the British".

One week later, American archeologists reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 feet in a cornfield west of Kenosha, Wisconsin, **Dwayne (N9PYA)**, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing at all.

Dwayne has therefore concluded that 250 years ago, Wisconsin had already gone wireless."

Just makes you proud to be a Cheesehead, doesn't it?

Physics Corner:



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 between 2:00-3:00pm**

Do You Know? (answers in appendix)

- What is a “DX COP” ?
- What is a “LID”?
- What does “QRB” actually mean?
- What does SOTA, POTA, VOTA, YOTA, and IOTA stand for?
- What is a “ZERO BEAT” and what is a BFO?
- What is my actual transmit frequency?

Contesting Corner



The **ARRL 160m CW contest** begins TODAY, December 1.

Congratulations to **Tom, W9FL**, who scored more than 118 CW QSOs and several ATNOs in last weekend's CQWW CW contest using the “search and pounce” approach.

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. .

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. You get digital access to all four periodicals with ARRL membership. Here are the new issues and a link to them [HERE](#) (ARRL members only)



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

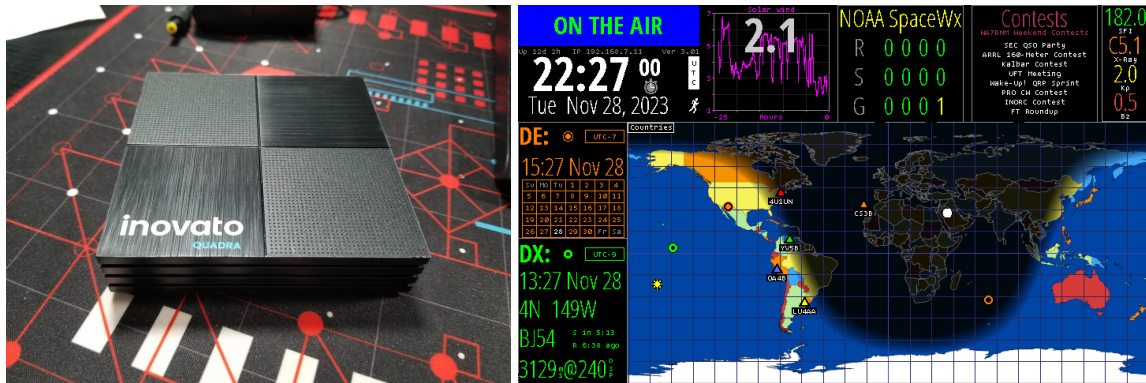
A new island has formed near Iwo Jima. It may not last long if you want to activate it as an IOTA. There appears to be a good landing area to the right in this picture.

Mike, WW9X, says he and his wonder dog Sparky are ready for the challenge:



Stuff You Need (?) Department:

Inovato Quadra: \$35 (\$49 with Hamclock SW installed)



Ham Radio Apps pre-installed!

An ideal computer for Ham Enthusiasts. Includes pre-installed Apps like WSJT-X, GridTracker, HamClock, JS8CALL, FIDigi, Pat Winlink and more! [Inovato](#)

Thanks to **Bill, KD1Z**, for calling this to my attention.

Education motto mug, “Understanding” coffee mug, and POTA stickers



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 no "elmer story" takers last month so I'll try something else.

For next month, **I want to publish pictures of our member's QSL cards.** Send me a picture of your personal QSL card (and/or your favorite received QSL). Send pictures of them to me at VP@KR9RK.COM or better still, post them on the HH forum and I'll pick them up from there.



QSL MONTH IS HERE!

Send me pictures of your personal QSL card in December!

73, and have a very merry Christmas
Fred, K9SO
VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

APPENDIX:

- What is a “DX COP” ?

DX stations in high demand often work split. That means they transmit on one frequency and listen on another to avoid being covered up by a pileup. Every once in a while someone makes a mistake and transmits on the DX station's frequency. That often elicits a response from many self-appointed “DX COPS” who get on and scream “He's working UP UP UP you idiot!” More often than not, the “cops” cause much more interference than the guy who made the initial mistake. Don't be a DX Cop. It might make you a LID.

- What is a “LID”?

A LID means a poor operator. Being called a LID is the ultimate Ham Radio insult.

- What does “QRB” actually mean?

Well, on the HH it means “Refresh Your Beverage”, but officially this “q-code” means “How far away are you?”

- What does SOTA, POTA, VOTA, YOTA, and IOTA stand for?

Summits, Parks, Volunteers, Youth, and Islands On The Air. All lots of fun to track down.

- What is a “ZERO BEAT” and what is a BFO?

Your radio displays your “carrier” frequency. That would be the exact frequency of a CW signal or an AM signal's carrier. It is also where the carrier would be on SSB if it weren't suppressed. A CW signal cannot be demodulated by the typical AM detector so a separate oscillator 500 to 1000 Hz away is introduced to create a “beat” tone. These used to be included on receivers as the “Beat Frequency Oscillator”, or BFO. We used to have to adjust the frequency of our transmitters until there was zero frequency difference between it and a received signal. This “zero beat” allowed us to get on the exact same frequency.

- What is my actual transmit frequency?

You might think that transmitting a CW signal on 7000.01 KHz (10Hz above the 40m lower band edge) would be OK. You would be correct. A continuous carrier without any information on it occupies essentially zero bandwidth. But Morse is not continuous as it contains information. Anything that contains information occupies bandwidth. The more information, the wider the bandwidth. A 40 wpm Morse transmission actually occupies 40-50 Hz of space ... not zero. On SSB, your actual signal is transmitted between the display frequency (the suppressed carrier frequency) and UP 2.8-3KHz if on USB or DOWN from there if on LSB. This is especially important on the upper edges of the phone bands. For example, on 20m, the upper frequency limit of the band is 14.350 MHz. an upper sideband radio must display at least 3KHz below this edge to stay in band (14.347 MHz).

Not as good as Dayton, but hey ... it's Orlando, Florida in February.
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.

