



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Headline news: Foxhunt Jan 13, NOAA Presentation Jan. 15, Club meeting Jan 30, Straight Key Night tonight

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

**KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM**

Newsletter

January 1, 2024

## 123 members strong!

This month we welcomed four new members

Tom O'Grady - KD9WAN

Gary L Hardt - N9MGH

Justin Anderson - KD9WAL

Steve F Mrkvicka Jr. - KC9FSW

We finished the year with 123 members, a club record high. But now is the time for renewals.

[RENEW HERE NOW](#)



## From the board

email at **Board@KR9RK.COM**

Contact the board members via

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.

We hope you had a happy holiday season. Our Christmas party was an outstanding success thanks to the efforts of **Dave (NP2I)**, **Danni Wyatt**, **Pete (K9PJC)** and **Heather (WD9DHM)**



Check out all the pictures [HERE](#)

## Check out this cake!





# The Grinch Christmas Party Fundraiser

As you probably know, we recovered two hand held radios used as “repeater bombs” that attempted to interfere with our Happy Hour un-net on two separate occasions. Just for fun, we decided to auction these off at the Christmas Party.

Much to our surprise, **the winning bid was \$100**. Thanks to the winning bidder!

Thank you for this fundraising opportunity, Mr. LRA Grinch.

## 6 lessons from The LRA Grinch

As we move into the next year, I have a challenge for you. Try to adopt these 6 lessons in How the Interfering Grinch Stole Christmas and work them into your own life. Let’s all allow our hearts to grow three sizes next year and spread more love and joy in our world.

- Prize your loved ones, not your possessions.
- Practice respect, compassion, and empathy. Even when you’re inclined to think they don’t deserve it.
- Spread your joy, as far and as wide as possible.
- Finally, remember what a magical place the world was when you were a child. Find that magic and whimsy again and bring it back.

I plan to remember these lessons from our very own LRA Grinch and work what I’ve learned from them into my own life this year. I hope that you will, too. Let’s change our world for the better, one Grinch at a time.



# 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.

## Looking forward to 2014:

- "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.

## Breaking Repeater News!

**The long anticipated Walworth County UHF receive site is on line!** This is not a voting site and access is via a different 114.8 PL tone. If you're noisy into the system but still hear it out by Lake Geneva, change to a 114.8 TX PL and try it out! All other settings remain the same. Thanks to **Kevin, N9OIG**, for setting this up. This amazing site is on a 180' tower sitting on 1100' elevation and can hear 25w mobiles nearly full quieting all the way to the big Lake. If you use 79.7 PL receive, you will continue to use that PL as you are still listening to the main transmitter site. Carrier RX will eliminate that minor complication.



- 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. Thanks **Dwayne, N9PYA**

# Quarterly Membership Meeting January 30, 2024



## NEW HOURS!

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.

## HEY LOOK!



## LRA Tech Talk Training Session: Jan 15 NOAA

You won't want to miss the NOAA/SULCOM talk on **Monday evening, January 15**. A representative from the National Weather Service will present details on the spotter program just for us. It starts promptly at 7:00pm at the Sturtevant Police Station.

## HEY LOOK!





## LRA Member Activities:

### Foxhunts



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

Saturday, January 13 is our next LRA foxhunt. 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! 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 68 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 an average of check-ins/night 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.

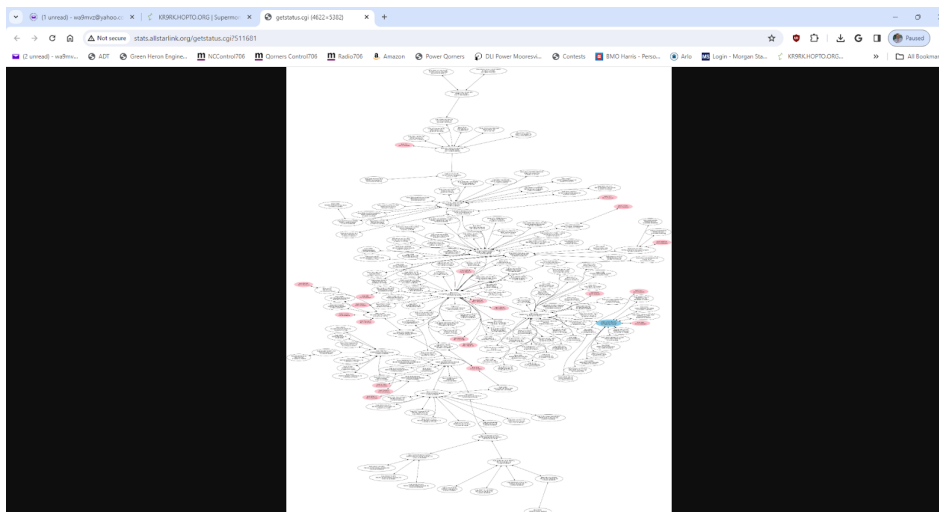
Congratulations to the latest HH Century Club **certificate winners, numbers 67 and 68, Craig, KD9UQU and Nathan, KD9VNJ**. We had just under 1000 check-ins again in November, and 355 hams have checked in 26,500+ times since recorded history began in December of 2020. Still going strong after all these years. Enjoy our afternoon “QRB” time at 5:30pm local time during the happy hour with your favorite “807” at 1/2 price.





On Christmas Eve, we joined up with other clubs via DoDropIn to track Santa Claus as he made his way around the world to spread his Joy. Sadly, we had our very own Grinch interfering with us and we were forced to disconnect our talk path to the Jolly Old Fellow undoubtedly disappointing many of our local young hams-to-be. It's truly hard to understand the mentality of someone who spoils the fun of young children, but the event was a success in spite of his attempts to foul things up.

A screenshot of our Allstar bubble chart taken that night (along with many others on RF) proves the numbers listening in and our kids still got to hear the many conversations Santa had with others as he flew around the country. Thanks to **Kevin, N9OIG** for making this happen.



## Important LRA Dates:

**January 13: Foxhunt**

**January 15: LRA NOAA Presentation**

**January 30: Membership meeting**

## 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 growing list of check-ins is below.

K9SO, Winlink Check in form, VARA HF.  
KC9HYY, one line check-in, HF  
KC9HYP, David's first Winlink check in, thank you!! One line check-in, HF  
AB1Z, Local Weather report.  
K9MWG, ICS213 General Message  
KD1Z, HF 20M, ICS213 General Message  
K9WNG, Winlink Chek-in VHF Packet  
K9PJC, one line check-in, VARA HF  
N9BJB, Local Weather Observation.  
W9LOL, Medical Incident Plan. Very interesting form.  
K9WBT, NCS

I feel so lonely out here on this checkin map:



**Winlink Notice:** Winlink VARA FM VHF in the Milwaukee Metro is Up and Running.

After a year of effort, the goal to provide 24/7 VARA FM Winlink service to MKE is online.

All three stations are on the same frequency, 145.610 simplex and operate with VARA FM. They are all digipeater capable. The nodes are:

AC9DE10 (Narrow Mode)

WO9B10 (Wide Mode)

WI9HRO10: (Narrow Mode)

Mark, AC9DE, was the main driver in securing and setting up the WI9HRO10 node, which is the HRO Employee's Club Station. HRO was very helpful in making this happen. The mantra in carrying out this project was "Just Build It". So it is up and running and ready to be of service to the MKE ham community.



**WIRES-X** No report

## SSTV

Many of us tried to get a SSTV transmission from the ISS. My attempt looked something like this:



Brad, K9WNG did a little bit better:

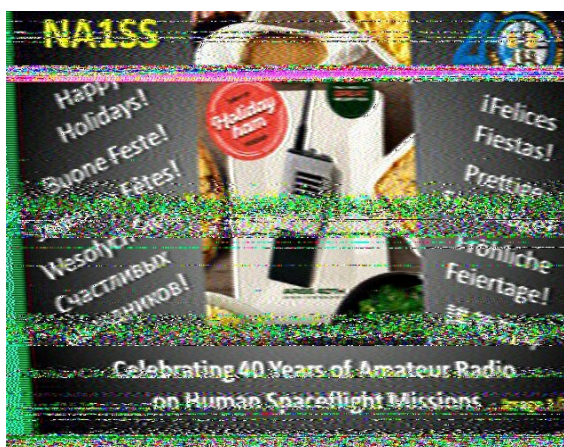




As did Bruce, K9WBT, using his SARCNET MK3 tracking system



But just under the Newsletter deadline, Pierre, KD9SSY got a couple of the best on his first ever try:





**WSJT-X** No report

**POTA Activity** No report

## **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**

See the SSTV activities above.

## **Happy Hour Email Group on Groups.IO**



We have a happy hour email reflector ("the forum") on Groups.IO now. Dozens of interesting posts last month. Join in the conversation by clicking on the link below now! You won't get spammed as you can opt to receive only one summary email per day. Get an invite here: [\[LRA Happy Hour Net\]](#)

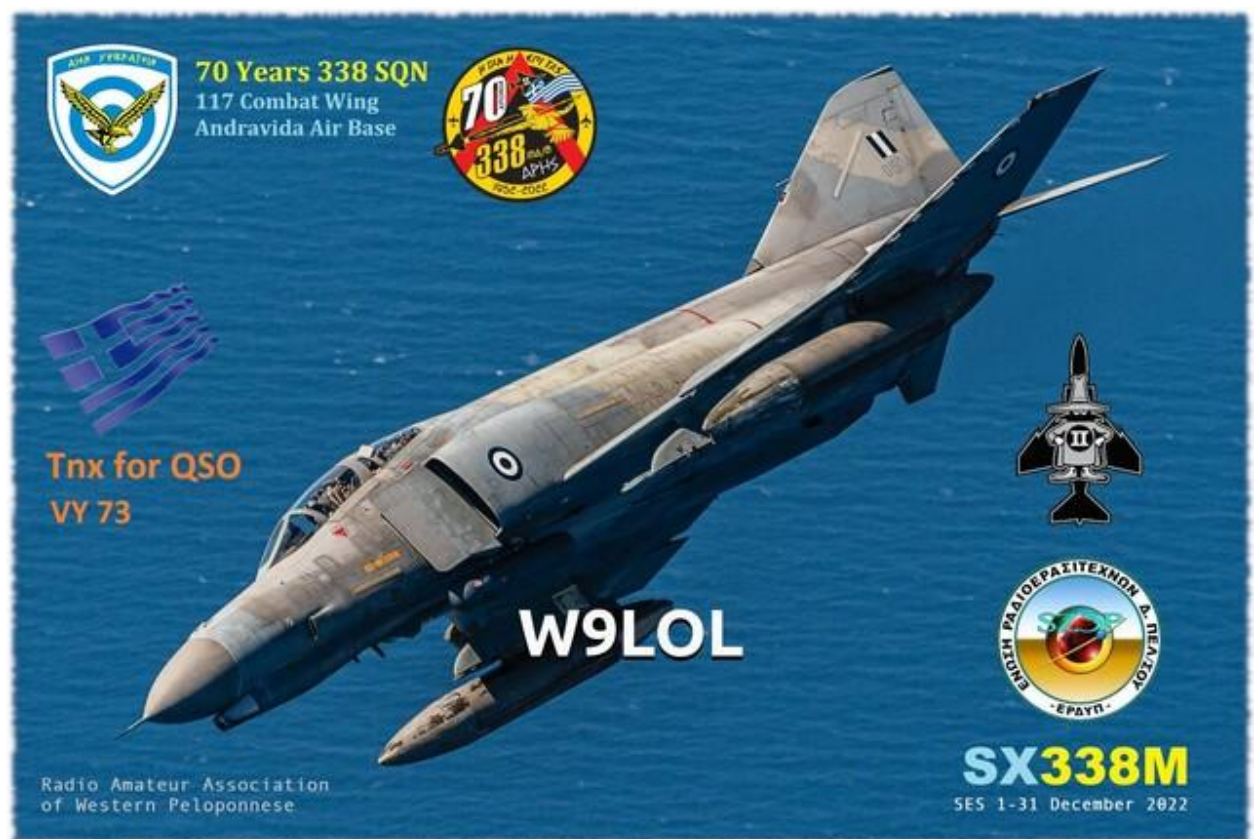
## QSL Card Month

Many of you responded this month by sending me your QSL cards. Here are the cards received before the deadline of this month's newsletter:



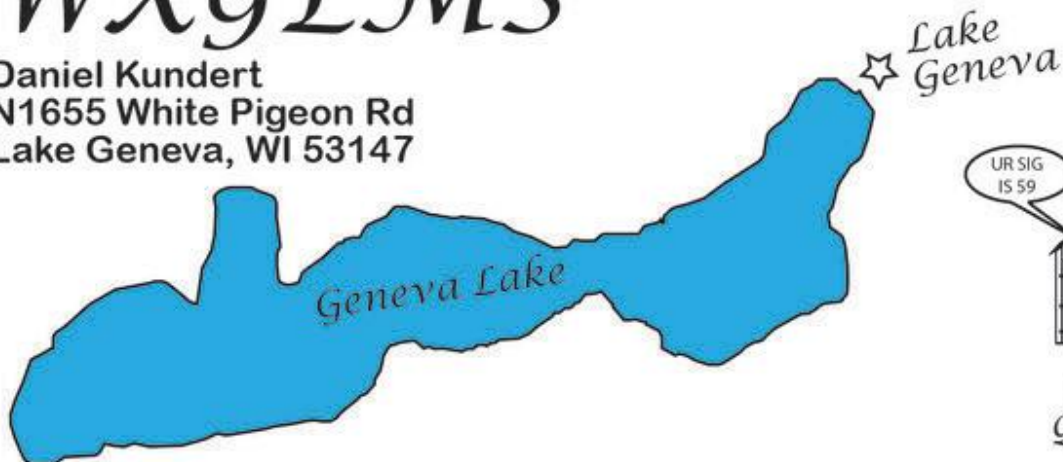






# WX9EMS

Daniel Kundert  
N1655 White Pigeon Rd  
Lake Geneva, WI 53147



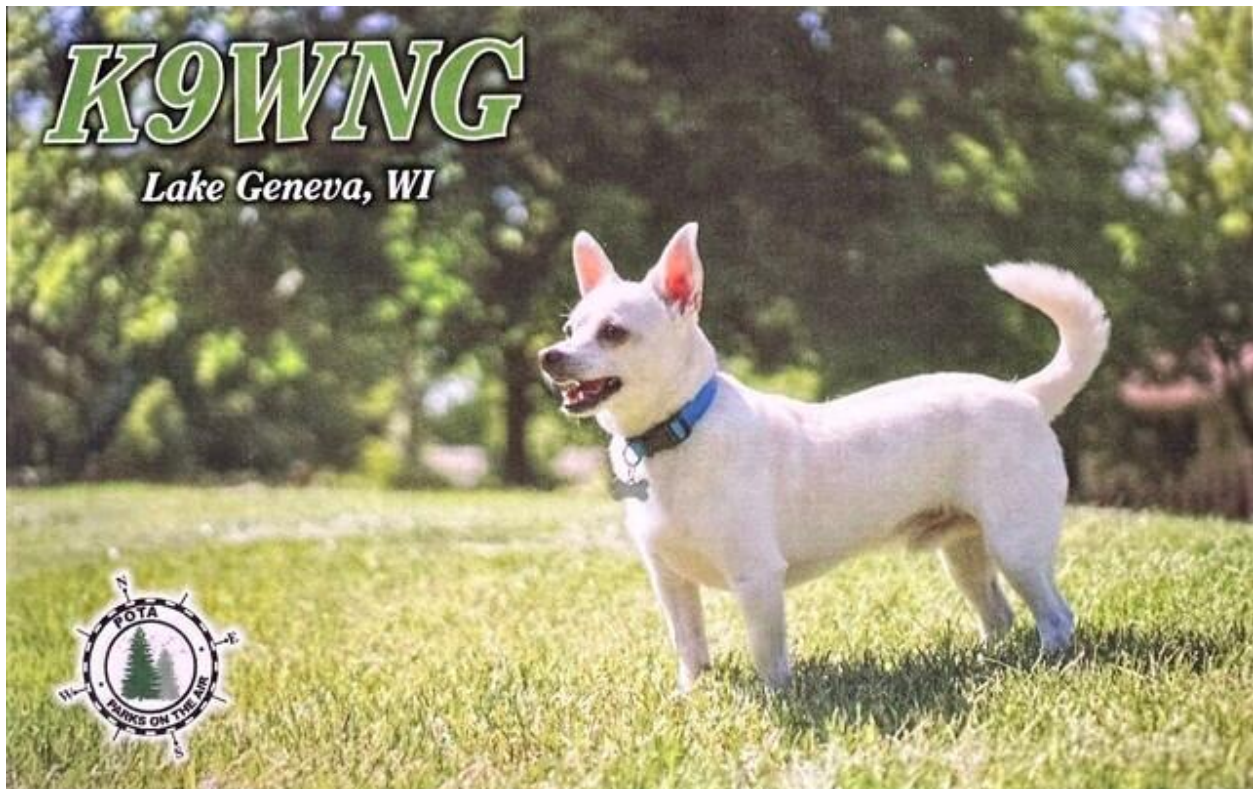
STATION	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	FREQ.	MODE	RST

☐ PSE QSL ☐ TNX QSL

GRID:EN52tn - RIG:KENWOOD TS-2000 - ANT:G5RV 25FT - INT:SIGNALINK USB

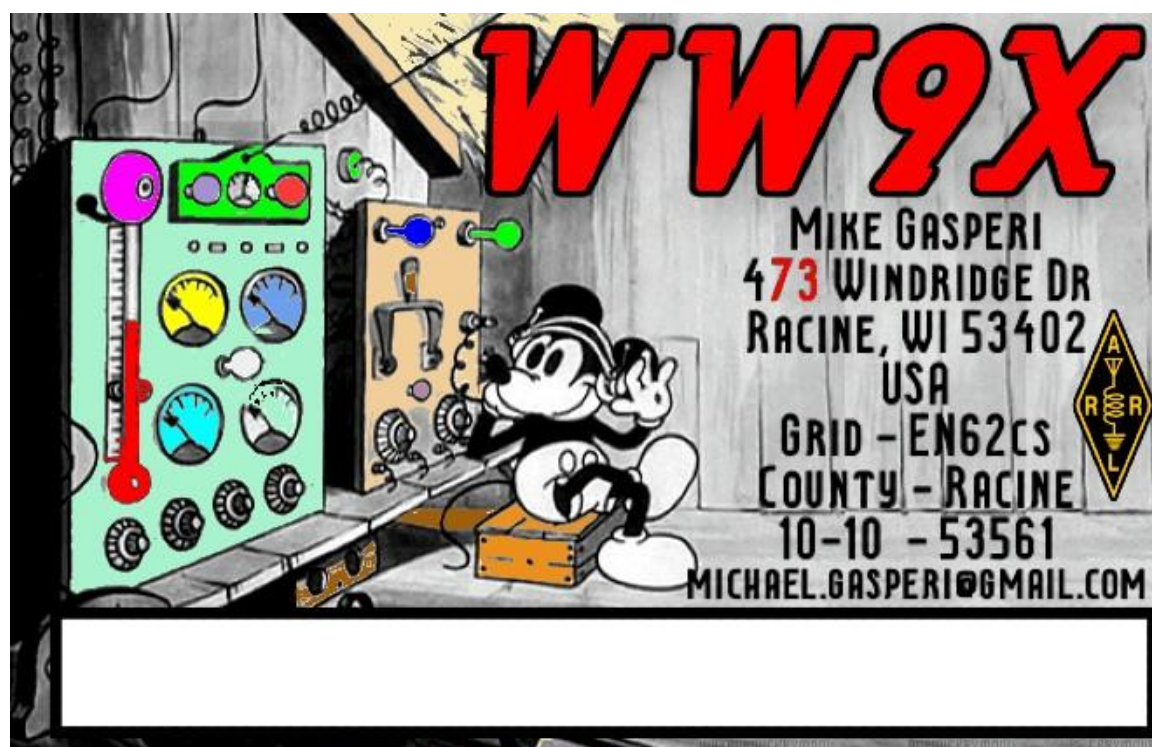
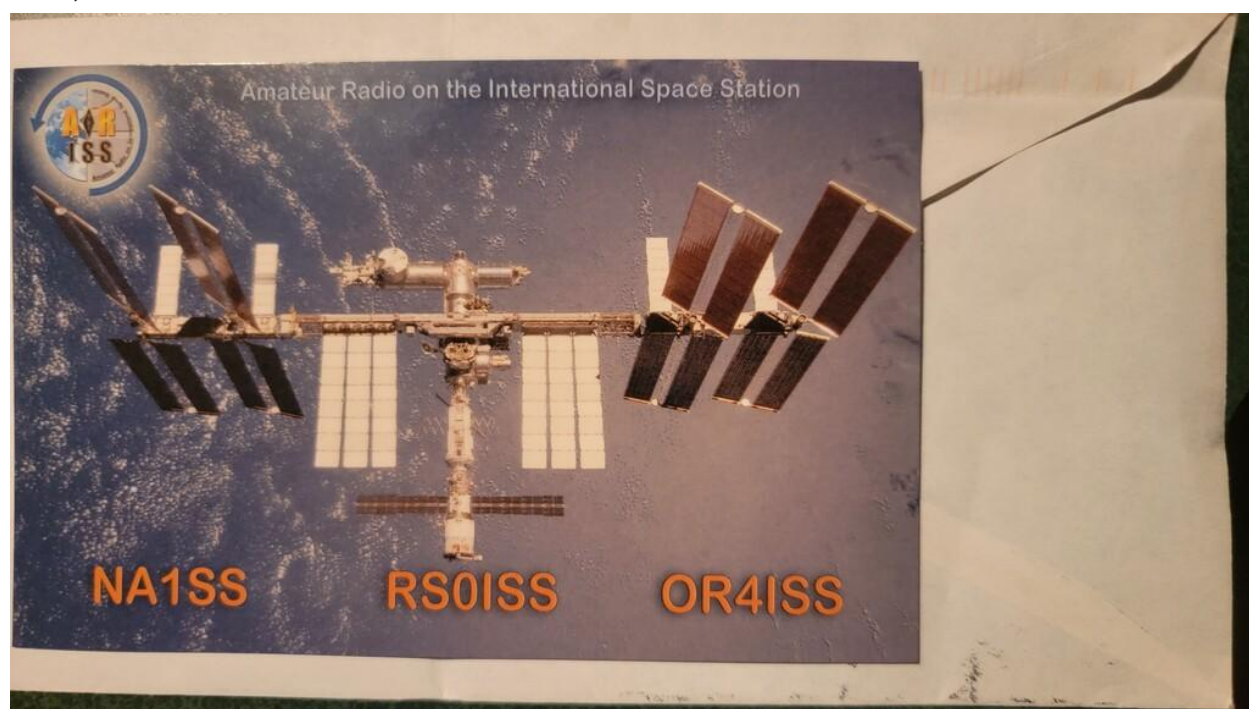
# K9WNG

*Lake Geneva, WI*





Pete, K9PJC sent in his favorite received card





... lastly, here's my (**K9SO**) W1AW (ARRL) card collection earning me WAS W1AW on multiple bands and modes:

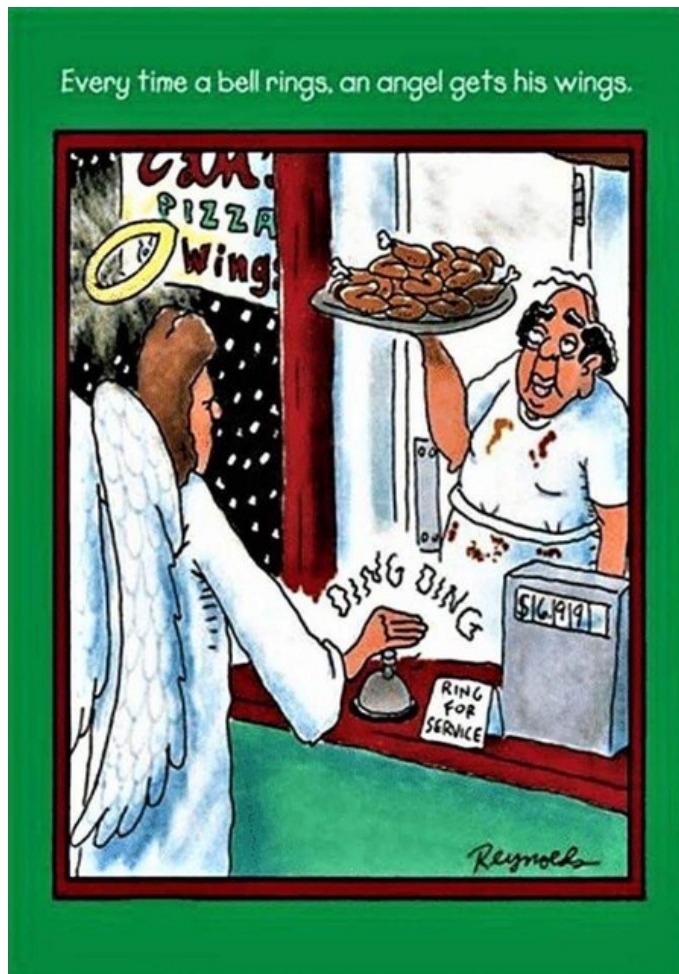


# Field Day 2024

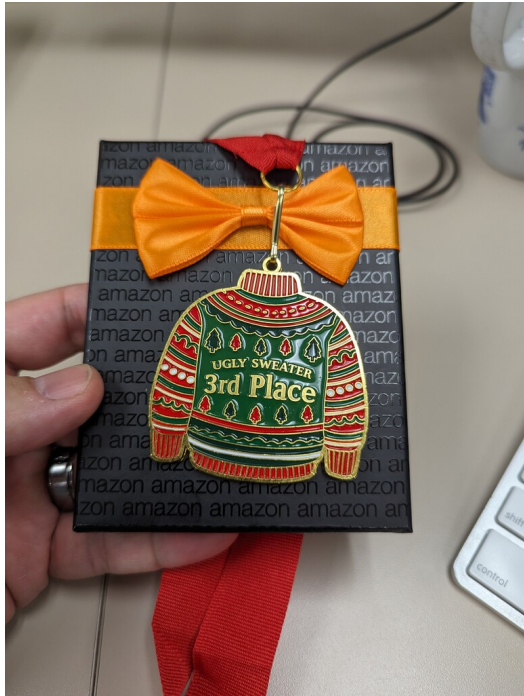
A Field Day organization committee has been formed. Our first on-line meeting will be held soon. Our members are K9SO (Chair) and AC9OT W9GTH WW9X KC9JOB KC9UJO. Let me know if you'd like to be included in the planning: [VP@KR9RK.COM](mailto:VP@KR9RK.COM)

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

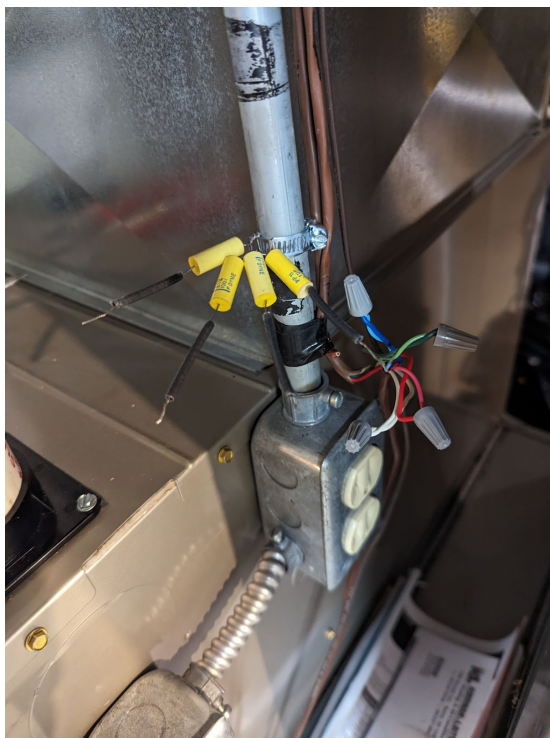
Jack, W9LOL submitted this month's cartoon:



**Ryan, K9N BG** won 3rd place award at his company's Ugly Sweater contest. I saw the picture and I think he was robbed!



**Mike, WW9X** got rid of his furnace noise with a couple of strategically placed capacitors:



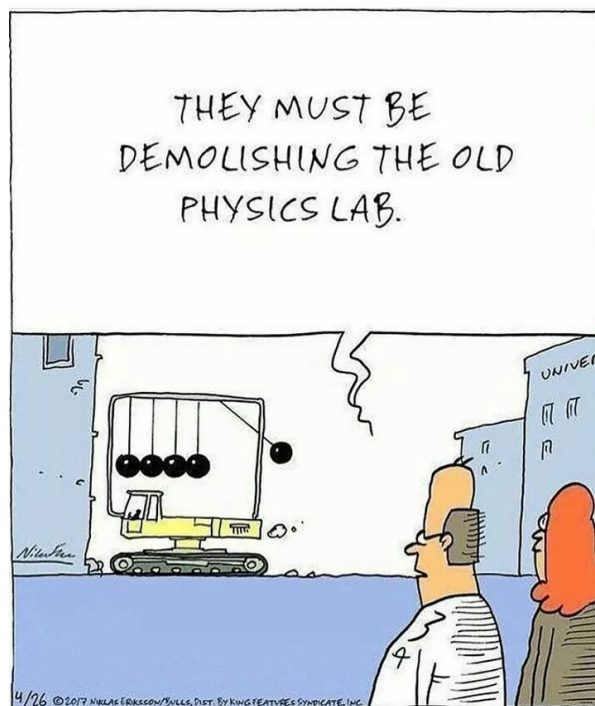
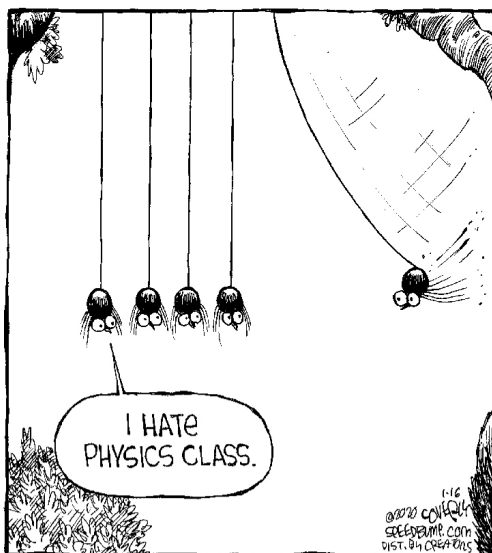
(OK for low voltage thermostat leads)





SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY



## 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**

# Contesting Corner



**The ARRL January VHF Contest. The 2024 contest will take place from 1900Z, January 20 to 0359Z, January 22. Logs are due on February 1, 2024**

**160m CW contest: 2200Z January 26 - 2200Z January 28, 2024**

## Propagation:

For many days now there has been such a large active region on the Sun's far side that it is affecting the vibration of the entire Sun. In addition, it has been observed by NASA's Mars Perseverance rover camera. While it is primarily designed to see if there is dust in the air, it can see large sunspots and, most importantly, the sun's far side is now visible from Mars.



"... Why can't she buy a nice cheap 50 dollar dress like other teenagers? ..."

# ARRL Straight Key Night 2024



ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) is held on January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. Many hams look forward to SKN as one of the highlights of their operating year.

ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) is January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

Operators participate using Morse code (CW). All you need is your favorite straight key or bug. Many participants dust off vintage radios and keys and put them back into service each year just for this event.

SKN is not a contest, so there's no need for quick exchanges. However, all hand keys, regardless of age, are welcome. The number of contacts you make is not important. The reward is meeting new friends as you get together on the air.

Send a list of stations contacted, SKN stories and photos, and your votes for Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO to [straightkey@arrl.org](mailto:straightkey@arrl.org) by January 31, 2024.

## Repeater Etiquette

**Joining a QSO in progress.** If there is a conversation taking place which you would like to join, simply state your callsign when one user unkeys. This is the reason for having a courtesy tone: to allow other users to break into the conversation. One of the stations in QSO, usually the station that was about to begin his transmission, will invite you to join, usually before making his own transmission. Don't interrupt a QSO unless you have something to add to the topic at hand. (Don't break in and say "I just wanted to say HI"). Interrupting a conversion is no more polite on a repeater than it is in person.



## 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 January: [DXNow](#)

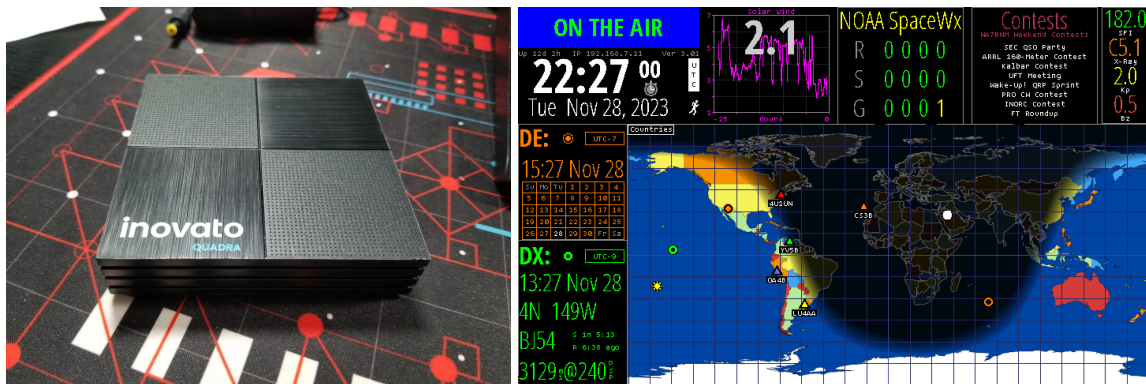
As you may know, last year's DXpedition to Bouvet was a near bust for most of us in North America due to the landing location (there was a big mountain in the way). I was fortunate enough to work them twice via long path. If you missed out, here's another chance ... and they're going to have a specific station set up on a hill looking at NA!

Also, you won't want to miss Peter I Island ("Peter-one-island"). This would be an ATNO for me, but I'll have to wait until 2026. Check out the advanced plans for both here:

[DXpedition Plans](#)

## Stuff You Need (?) Department:

**Inovato Quadra: \$35 (\$49 with Hamclock SW installed) ... worth repeating**



### 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](#)

Lots of members have purchased this over Christmas and the reviews are great. Thanks to **Bill, KD1Z**, for calling this to my attention.

## Anyone 868 and 878 HT Radio Labels



**Just \$8.95 for a pair of custom labels**

**73,Fred, K9SO**

**VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.**

## APPENDIX:

### WCRA Winter Hamfest

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#### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

01/14/2024

Start Date: 01/14/2024

End Date: 01/14/2024

Location: Kane Country Fairground

525 S. Randall Rd.

St Charles, IL

Website: <http://w9ccu.org>

Sponsor: Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs (WCRA)

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.31/- (107.2)

Public Contact: Kelsey Schroeder , KA9KDC

PO Box 1055 Wheaton, IL 60187

Phone: (630) 923-5447

Email: [hamfest@w9ccu.org](mailto:hamfest@w9ccu.org)

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.