



UNDERLINED TEXT IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE LINKS TO OTHER SITES

Newsletter: June, 2025

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

[KR9RK.ORG](http://KR9RK.ORG) / [KR9RK.COM](http://KR9RK.COM)

Memberships spanning 3 countries and two continents! 119 active members and still growing!

This month we welcomed:

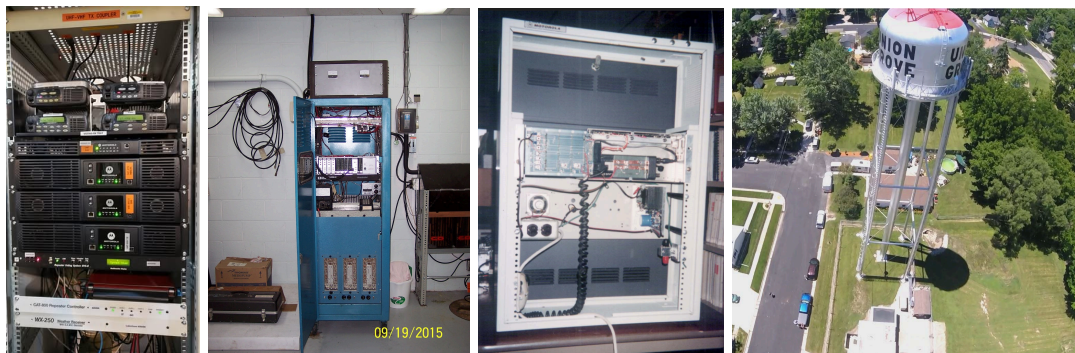
DAVID, N3DMC: Joined 2025-05-20

Ian, KE9CCJ: Joined 2025-05-26

## Project North Star

Our most successful fundraiser ever raised \$3550 towards equipment purchases. Membership unanimously approved the construction of our very own HF station at the April general meeting. Two radio stations are already on line (still in Beta testing), and two new towers are up just waiting for their antennas. When completed, we'll be adding a third radio connected to a multi-band beam and rotor system up 55 feet!

## Historic KR9RK Pictures





## From the board

Contact the board members via email at [Board@KR9RK.COM](mailto:Board@KR9RK.COM)

The board has authorized the following 2025 activities. WOW! What a year!

- “The Taste of Field Day” on Saturday, June 28 from 12:00 to 5:00pm.  
Shelter #1 Richard Bong State Park
- Summer Picnic at the Racine County Fairgrounds (Settler’s Park)  
probably August 2, but date TBD
- 50th Anniversary special event station K5O during the weekend of  
September 21. Members can sign up for times to use the K5O  
callsign with the new club HF station or operate their own stations. A  
reservation system will be online.
- Annual Christmas Party, December (TBD)

## Bylaw amendment proposal:

Our club is growing with International members from Scotland and Canada while spanning multiple states including California, Minnesota, and Texas. At the April general membership meeting, I (K9SO) raised the question regarding voting which is currently restricted to members physically present at club functions. The discussion that followed indicated a general willingness of the members to pursue an amendment to the Bylaws.

Matt, AF9Q indicated that our use of Ham Clubs On Line allowed for secure and private remote voting. Greg, W9GTH volunteered to draft an amendment for later consideration.

Bylaw changes are intentionally drawn out affairs, so while this may be presented at the next meeting, a final vote may still be further down the line.

## Megacycle Club Merger

Stay tuned for an important update.

## Lakeshore Repeater Assoc. Upcoming Activities

Hello everyone! I hope this letter finds you all well. We have some exciting things coming up in the near future and we hope to see you all there.

- On Saturday, June 28th we will be having our **Taste of Field Day** at Richard Bong Recreation Area. Fred (K9SO) will be managing this event and it is sure to be a fun day. Bring your friends and family and show them how much fun they're missing out on! Operating times are 12 to whenever we feel the need to stop. Set up starting at 9 am. Please come and help set up. You may learn a few things about setting up remotely. We are also looking for volunteers to bring a dish to pass or to donate food for the grill. Please email me at the address below with what you would like to contribute. Thanks in advance!
- Sunday August 3rd is our annual **summer picnic** and it will be at Old Settlers Park (Racine Co Fairgrounds) in Union Grove Wi. We will be starting at 11 am with lunch being served around noon. Please bring a dish to share! If you wish to coordinate a radio related activity to add a bit more fun to the day then please feel free to email me at the address below. Cost is \$25 per person.
- As many of you know, 2025 is the **50th Anniversary of the LRA**. We are operating a special operating event the weekend of September 19th, 20th and 21st with the callsign of K5O and hope to have operators available to sign up for blocks of hours to operate. We will be setting up a time sheet to operate on Signup Genius in the near future.

- Our annual Christmas party will be some time in December with dates and times to be announced at a later time.

If you have a radio special event that you would like to arrange for the club to participate in, please email me at the address below.

Thanks and 73s!!

Kevin Aney KB9LLV

events.chair@kr9rk.com

## LRA TASTE of FIELD DAY EVENT:

An expanded "Taste of Field Day" event was authorized for this year with local stations staying on the air longer. Several members are planning on camping out for the weekend. Contact **Kevin, KB9LLV** for more information. The Richard Bong shelter #1 has been reserved for this event once again. Saturday, June 28. Setup begins at 9:00am.

Last full weekend of June, 2025. Contact **K9SO** and/or **KB9LLV** for details. Last year:



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## LRA operating software changes:





Our HamClubsOnLine activation has been completed thanks to **Matt AF9Q**'s efforts. This gives us a strong club management tool. By now you should have received some notices. Many functions of our club are now automated.

No need, but you may want to log into [HamClubOnline](#) just to see the benefits this brings to the LRA. If you're a member, simply set up your own password.

## **KR9RK Remote HF Station: LRA Project North Star**

<<IMPORTANT>> We will be upgrading the system software to 3.9.18 on Wednesday, June 4. Users must install SmartSDR v 3.9.18 on their PCs after the upgrade. PREVIOUS VERSIONS WILL NO LONGER WORK. If you receive a warning that prompts you to upgrade or downgrade the radios, please do not do so. It means that you are not running the correct version of the software on your PC.

Software is free and may be downloaded [HERE](#)  
(<https://www.flexradio.com/software/smartsdr-v3-9-18/>)

Users should all be enrolled in the Project North Star [groups.io](#) forum. We will make all system announcements there. Search [groups.io](#) or contact me at [VP@KR9RK.COM](mailto:VP@KR9RK.COM) for an invite. This forum will be used for system operational announcements only and not for casual conversation.

Station access procedure:

- A setup donation will be required for those who have not already contributed. Please contact Rick at [TREASURER@KR9RK.COM](mailto:TREASURER@KR9RK.COM) for more information.
- Contact Bruce, K9WBT, via email at [k9wbt.ham@gmail.com](mailto:k9wbt.ham@gmail.com) to schedule system training.
- Bruce will advise Matt, AF9Q of your certification and he will provide VPN credentials and more detailed information on how to connect. You may contact Matt directly at [SECRETARY@KR9RK.COM](mailto:SECRETARY@KR9RK.COM). Copy me at [VP@KR9RK.COM](mailto:VP@KR9RK.COM) on all communications.

The presentation may be viewed here: [April 29 North Star Update](#)

The committee has already been hard at work and installed our first test station at the Raymond, Wisconsin radio site. It will be modest at first, but the vision is amazing. Also, the remote NC station is already on line.



In the early days on the prairie, farmers used to join up for a “barn raising”. On Monday, April 28, **Rick, KC9UJO** assembled a team of “antenna raising” construction volunteers (**Bernie N9AZA, Jeff KC9JOB, Fred K9SO, Craig KD9UQE, and Tom KA9KJE**) and they raised our first ever HF antenna. It’s a Gap Titan and she’s a beauty. Braving wind gusts of up to 50mph, the team repaired the antenna which had previously been badly damaged from the everpresent winds and installed it atop a new Rohn 25g tower section. A new set of Dacron guy lines should prevent future damage:



A special thank you to Emil and the tower climbing crew to make this happen!













This will go up another 10 feet and the 3 element beam will go on top:





Room left for the second transceiver:





[Newly installed Titan Gap antenna at the Raymond site](#)







I've been trying it out. Six countries worked already including Australia, Caribbean, and Europe. That's on CW, but I've worked a dozen or so POTA stations on SSB. Bruce, K9WBT has been operating FT-8.

When operating, **you'll be using your own call** under your own operating privileges. No need for "/9" or any other kind of identification. This is YOUR RADIO. Use of the KR9RK callsign is restricted. No extended operating privileges are included. Since it's your license, it's your responsibility to stay in band and operate legally. Now's your reason to upgrade!



**It's TICK PICKING TIME! Early in the season, but they were out in force.**



# We need you

... to Support the LRA Activities Volunteer and [RENEW!](#)

At an earlier membership meeting , President Dwayne announced that we have formed a bi-weekly “volunteers forum” meeting call on GoogleMeets that will consist of any and all LRA volunteers. But volunteers only. To qualify for joining this call, members must volunteer for SOMETHING... . ANYTHING AT ALL. This will not be a formal meeting, but only a very informal discussion group. If you feel left out of the “inner circle of club management”, try volunteering for something and participating in LRA’s activities. If you have something to share with the group, and would like to present, please contact Dwayne, Matt, or me.

## Quarterly Membership Meeting



## NEW HOURS! **NEW LOCATION!**

Our quarterly open membership meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the first month of each quarter. (January, April, July, and October). The next will be **Tuesday, July 29** and it will be held at our **new YMCA location** in Mt. Pleasant. Starting time is 6:30pm central time. We live stream these events if you would like to participate remotely but currently, by LRA bylaws, only participants attending the meeting in person may vote.



## LRA Member Activities:



Kevin, N9OIG, installed a new pneumatic antenna support on his trailer and set up a repeater with an antenna up 40 feet at Dayton this year.



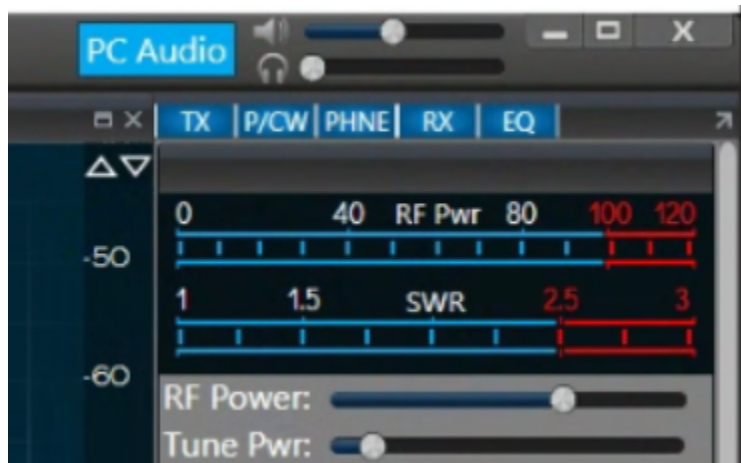
This page was unintentionally left blank because you forgot to send me something to include in the newsletter this month!

Bruce, K9WBT and Jen, K9UET, enjoyed the weekend activities at the Dayton Hamvention this year:





**Bruce, K9WBT**, also posted a well received instruction sheet titled "How to Flex Like a Pro" check it out [HERE](#). Certainly a good read if you have any plans on operating the club HF station.



**Bernie, N9AZA**, is our SKYWARN coordinator for the LRA. Summer is finally approaching. Be sure to participate in the practice nets. We've already had two this season.

Supporting Bernie on our SKYWARN committee are **Steve, N9SEB**, **Rick, KC9UJO**, and **Dwayne, N9PYA**.

## Happy Hour, LRA Style: our 5th year



It seems we're setting new check-in records every month nowadays. New moderators from Texas are making things interesting.



# ARES/RACES AND LRA PUBLIC SERVICE NET.



**From Tom, KA9KJE (SE District Emergency Coordinator):**

**Greetings ARES/RACES and friends**

As Discussed in our last in person meeting on the 6th of Feb we wanted to explore the possibility of doing more of our nets on the KR9RK repeater. After talking to Dwayne and Fred, they are happy to have us do more nets on the KR9RK Repeater. We are planning to start Next month Looking for feedback on this ideal. And as always looking for more net controls operators for one or more net dates. We will start out with the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm for now and possibly expand to more days in a month. We will continue to have at least 1 Simplex practice a month to keep our simplex skills going. Also the Wisconsin Marathon is coming up soon and we are looking for volunteers and need to discuss whether we continue using Simplex or KR9RK repeater or both. Thanks and have a great day

Tom Burger-KA9KJE Racine / Kenosha Emergency Coordinator, Wisconsin  
Southeast District Emergency Coordinator

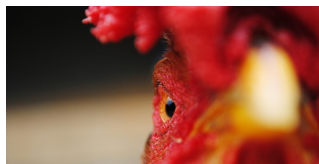
## Saturday Breakfast



Many of our members meet for an informal breakfast every Saturday morning at 8:00am at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville. Everyone is welcome.



## LRA 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](#)] or send me an email requesting an invite to [VP@KR9RK.COM](mailto:VP@KR9RK.COM)

# Project Pages:



[send me pictures of your latest projects!]

I've been off the air mostly due to my new network configurations breaking my IC706 network. My backup system, the IC-9700, also went off line. I apparently completely destroyed my **(K9SO)** network when I added the North Star access. Thanks to **Matt, AF9Q** for his help in getting me back on the air. My Windows computer, known as a NUC (Next Unit of Computing), needed another NIC (Network Interface Card):

*My new network NATTING was weak  
Made my radio setups look bleak  
With a new NIC in my NUC,  
I reversed all my luck.  
Now I'm back in true form as a GEEK.*

- **Steve, NU5D**, contributed this link to an interesting Allstar article [HERE](#)



**Bruce, K9WBT**, has been leading a local Winlink Wednesday Radio Email activity. There has been growing participation lately with a record turnout last week. 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](#)]. Here's his latest check-in map and growing roster. :

VE6XAD, Chad, Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada, (HF)  
KC9HYY, NATHAN, TROY, WALWORTH, WI, USA (hf)  
WO9B, MJ, New Berlin, Waukesha, WI, VARA HF  
W9ABE, Rich, Waukesha, New Berlin, WI, VHF Vara  
K9WNG, Brad, Linn, Walworth, WI, VHF  
N9UUO, John, Raymond, Racine County, WI, Telnet via RadioMail app!  
K9WBT, Bruce, Kenosha, Kenosha County, WI, Telnet (NCS)

**Fokke & Sukke**  
are amazed at the pace of technological  
innovation

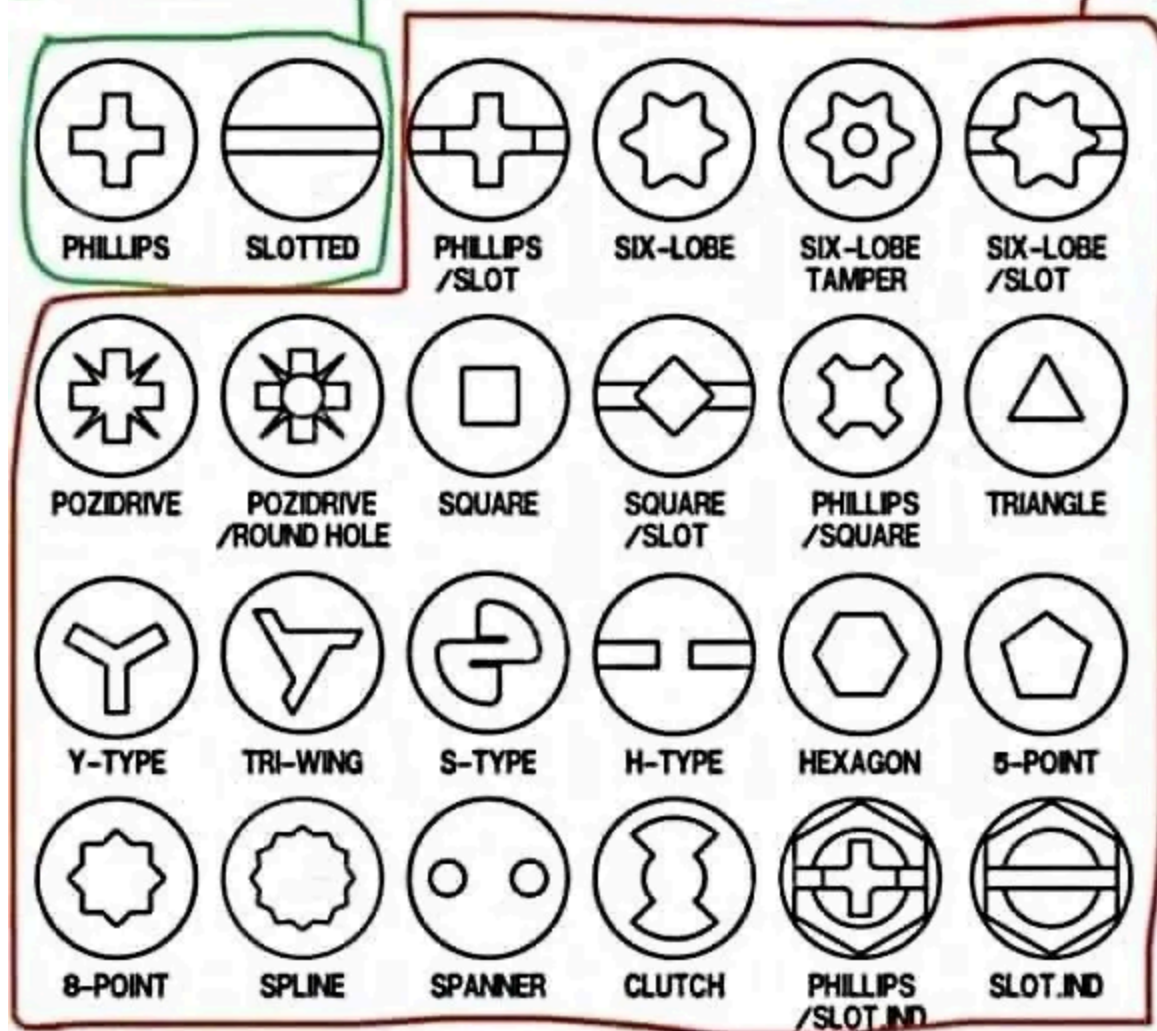
**Incredible!!!**  
You can hear music  
straight away!

and you don't even  
need to log on to  
the Internet!



ACTUAL  
SCREWS

Mental  
DISORDERS



Thanks Tom, W9FL!

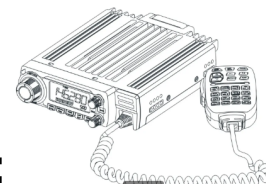
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# Contesting/Operating Corner



Visit the contest calendar to see what's cookin' this weekend:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>



## What you need (?) Department:



**Introduced at Dayton:  
New Kenwood transceiver**





**New self-contained 500w pep radio + tuner from FlexRadio (expected to be ~\$8500)**

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I've started a swap meet section of the newsletter in the appendix below and it works! Stuff is selling. **Send me pictures and details of what treasures you may want to sell.**

Share your achievements, activities, and projects with your fellow LRA members! Send me your photos! Post on the HH forum and I'll pick them up.

**73, Fred, K9SO**

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

[VP@kr9rk.com](mailto:VP@kr9rk.com)

This newsletter was authorized by the LRA Secretary, AF9Q

# APPENDIX I, swapmeet



[William - WM9H](#)

- Yaesu FT-891, Digirig DR-891, Digirig ferrite USB-C cable, Mic cable extension
- Bought from HRO Sep 2024, about 20 outings. Perhaps 50 hours of use.
- Digirig DR-891 enables all the digital modes with a single USB-C cable connection.
- Includes box, all materials and accessories. Great condition, no issues with items.
- Includes the brown Yaesu hat from last year!
- \$769.71 retail, including tax for radio, as of today.
- \$600 OBO, cash is king.