



UNDERLINED TEXT IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE LINKS TO OTHER SITES

Newsletter: July, 2025

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

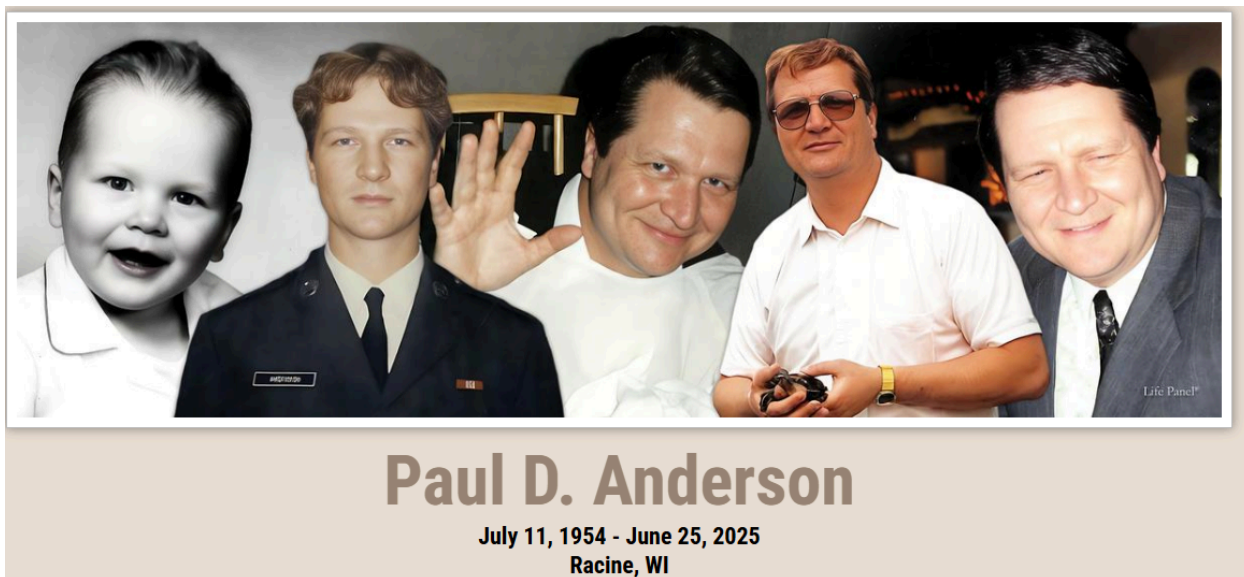
Memberships spanning 3 countries and two continents! 122 active members and still growing!

This month we welcomed:

Rees Roberts, K9UUT joined 6/2/2025

Nashan Seifert, KC9ZKJ, joined 6/28/2025

Richard Dopp, KA9KEA, joined 6/28/2025



Paul Anderson, KB9JPN, SK

Ever the ham, Paul brought his HT with him and was making QSOs from his hospice bed last week. I was proud to have been one of his final contacts on the LRA UHF repeater on his last day.

Earning his Happy Hour Millennial award a few months ago, it was proudly displayed at his memorial services:



BREAKING NEWS: LAKESHORE AND MEGACYCLE CLUBS JOIN TOGETHER



LRA President Dwayne, N9PYA addressing the Megacycle club board in June

The boards of both Lakeshore Repeater Association and the Megacycle Clubs unanimously voted to merge the two organizations into one. Once approved by the LRA membership in July, the new organization will be publicly known as the LakeShore Radio Association. Officially we will remain organized as the Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

The Megacycle club is one of the oldest ham clubs in Wisconsin, forming in 1947 making this an exciting new adventure for everyone.

A new logo has been proposed and will be presented to the membership for approval at the July quarterly meeting.



Taste of Field Day

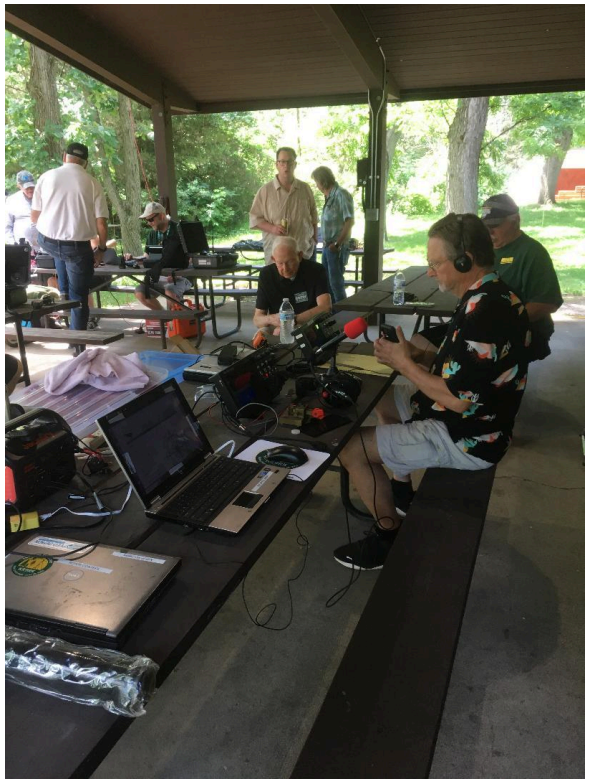
This year's "Taste" was an amazing success! Over 30 visitors and participants joined in on the fun at Richard Bong State Recreation Area last Saturday and set up local and remote radio access equipment. Food and drink was provided free of charge for all in attendance and over \$125 was raised for the club through sales of "Taste of Field Day" stickers and mouse pads.

For the first time in years, the weather cooperated with us and it was a beautiful afternoon. Fred, K9SO and Kevin, KB9LLV put it all together this year.











You can still get your dishwasher safe Field Day stickers (3 for \$10 donation) at the July general membership meeting.



N3JPP's AORL Field Day Contact Log 6.6.9 www.n3jpp.com

File	Settings	Band	Mode	View	Network	Operator	Help
Current Band & Mode 6.6.9							

Recent Contacts

Rec	Call	Class	Sec	Date / Time	Bnd	Mode	Country	Initials	Operator
485	M5RK	XE	SF	06/29 16:46	20	FT4	USA	RM	WB9COW
484	KXNRSP	3A	GRD	06/29 16:46	20	FT4	USA	RM	WB9COW
483	W7PRA	7A	OR	06/29 16:43	20	FT4	USA	RM	WB9COW
482	N5SMA	1D	VA	06/29 16:42	20	FT4	USA	RM	WB9COW
481	K1RH	1D	MDC	06/29 16:40	20	FT4	USA	RM	WB9COW
480	VZQOQ	2A	QC	06/29 16:35	20	FT4	Canada	RM	WB9COW
479	WB9DXG	1D	MB	06/29 16:29	20	FT4	USA	RM	WB9COW
478	H4MO	1D	MB	06/29 16:28	20	FT4	Canada	RM	WB9COW
477	W4TBS	3A	WWA	06/29 16:26	20	FT4	USA	RM	WB9COW

Score Statistics

Total CW Contacts	0
Total Phone Contacts	0
Total DIG Contacts	485
Total QSO Points	1,940
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	0
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	0

Call **Class** **Section**

Ready to begin! Please select your band and mode from the menu!

Possible Duplicates ☒ Any Portion

DX	3	5	7	0
DX <input type="button" value="1"/> CT RT EMA VT ME WMA NH	DE MDC EPA WPA <input type="button" value="4"/> AL SC GA SFL KY TN NC VA NFL V PR WCF	AR NTX LA OK MS STX NM WTX <input type="button" value="6"/> EB SCV LAX SDG ORG SF PAC SJV SB SV	AK NV AZ OR EW UT ID WWA MT WY <input type="button" value="8"/> MI WV OH	CO MO IA NE KS ND MN SD <input type="button" value="Canada"/> AB ONE BC ONN GH ONS MB PE NB QC NL SK NS TER

Bearing:
Miles:

Band: **20** **Mode:** **DIG**

WB9COW **1E** **WI**

7:11:43 AM
 9/21/11 JDT

Project North Star is ON THE AIR!

Access applications now available

Users are lining up to use the new LRA remote stations. We're ready to start accepting applications to join. Beta testing is over and while there may still be a few hiccups along the way, we'll handle them as they arise. The time to join up is NOW!

There is a one-time \$50 registration fee (waived for the GoFundMe donors) and monthly participation fees are waived until the end of 2025. Only LRA members may participate. Participants should join the ProjectNorthStar group in [Groups.IO](https://www.groups.io/g/ProjectNorthStar) as important operating notes will be posted there and only there.

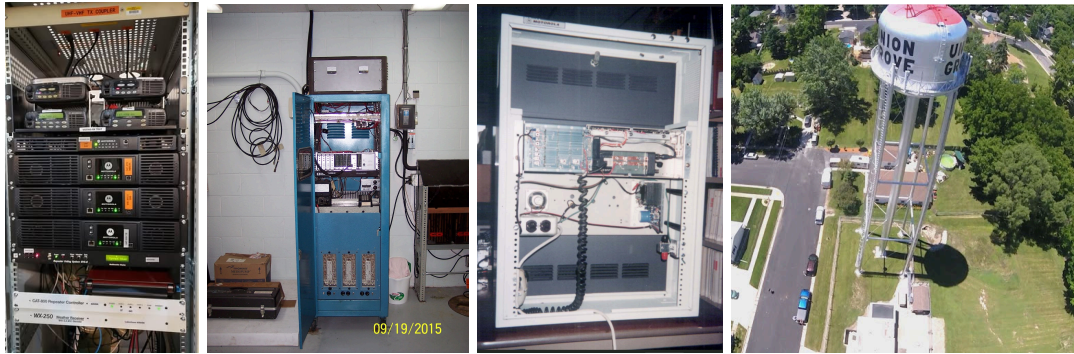
We will be reviewing the costs for participating in 2026 and beyond at a later date.

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, 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!

While the weekend weather didn't allow us to install the beam antenna on the main tower in June, we should be able to get that operational by the end of July. We've had reports of QSOs from Raymond on 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10 and even 6 meters! The Gap Titan is working well. Ten more feet on tower #1 and we're adding the second site radio and the big beam.



Historic KR9RK Pictures



From the board

Contact the board members via email at 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 DONE!
- Summer Picnic at the Racine County Fairgrounds (Settler’s Park) Sunday, Aug 3, 2025
- 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.

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.

- 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.
- International Lighthouse Lightships on the air
August 16/17 at the Wind Point Lighthouse. Volunteers needed for setup and operating.
- 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 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 have upgraded 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.

Be sure to read K9WBT's operating instructions found on the ProjectNorthStar [Groups.IO](#) page.

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 for an invite. This forum will be used for system operational announcements only and not for casual conversation.

Station access procedure:

- A \$50 setup donation will be required for those who have not already contributed during the GoFundMe phase. Please contact Rick at TREASURER@KR9RK.COM for more information.
- Contact Bruce, K9WBT, via email at 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. Copy me at 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!







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.

WIND POINT LRA CLUB RADIOACTIVITY: Aug 16/17



Mike, WW9X has reserved the Wind Point Lighthouse for this year's International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend. This is simply a gorgeous location and this year, LRA wants to sponsor station activity there. Mike needs operators and some help in setting up a POTA like operation there. August 16 and 17. We need to finalize this by the July membership meeting.

Quarterly Membership Meeting

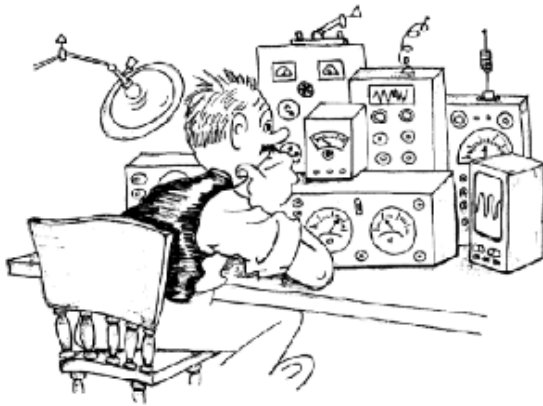


NEW HOURS! NEW LOCATION!

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:



Rees, K9UUT, has been using the Apple version of FlexRadio Smart SDR to copy ARRL CW bulletins perfectly:

Rees - K9UUT

FROM ARRL HQ NEWINGTON CT JUNE 20, 2025 TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS <BT>

SOLAR ACTIVITY REACHED HIGH LEVELS WHEN REGION AR4114 PRODUCED THE STRONGEST EVENT OF THE PERIOD, AN X1R9 FLARE AT 2350 UTC. THE REGION REMAINED THE MOST COMPLEX ON THE IDSITE BEING IN A DECAY PHASE. THE OTHER NUMBERED SPOTTED REGIONS ON THE VISIBLE DISK WERE EITHER MOSTLY STABLE OR IN GRADUAL DECAY. NO EARTH DIRECTED CMES WERE OBSERVED IN AVAILABLE CORONAGRAPH IMAGERY. <AS>

QST DE W1AW <BT>

SG DAR WIND PARAMETERS CONTINUED TO REFLECT A POSITIVE POLARITY CH HSS, OR CORONAL HOLE HIGH SPEED STREAM, REGIME. <BT> THE GEOMAGNETIC FIELD IS EXPECTED TO BE AT QUIET TO UNSETTLED LEVELS

K9SO Annual Gaian Eclipse party.

What is a Gaian Eclipse? When the sun goes behind the moon, we call it a solar eclipse. When the moon passes into Earth's shadow, it's a lunar eclipse.

But there's a third, far more mysterious phenomenon: the *Gaian Eclipse*. This momentous event occurs when we—humble inhabitants clinging to the daylight side of Earth—suddenly are plunged into the planet's own shadow.

During a Gaian Eclipse, the Earth perfectly aligns between you and the sun, completely blocking its light from your view. And on July 19 near Charlotte, NC, this cosmic alignment will begin precisely at 8:37 p.m. local time. Totality will last approximately 10 hours.

Astrophysicists speculate (without any supporting evidence) that terrestrial HF radio propagation could be dramatically affected, with higher frequencies mysteriously falling silent—an effect previously observed every evening but now imbued with the majesty of a named event. You, too, can contribute to science by conducting rigorous experiments such as yelling “CQ!” into the ether and logging your QSOs (or lack thereof) during totality.

To commemorate this awe-inspiring celestial occurrence, I'm throwing a Gaian Eclipse Party at my home in North Carolina. After all, it's *an event so big, the whole Earth participates*. Attendance is mandatory—because unless you're on the ISS, you're already in the shadow.

In honor of the occasion, I've commissioned a neon sign that will illuminate the night with the gravitas this event deserves (see attachment). Join us for what promises to be the most spectacular and widely experienced eclipse in human history—at least until the



following night

POTA, POTA, POTA

I did my second ever POTA activation from Lake Norman State Park in June. Lots of fun:



John, AC90T, likes lugging his POTA equipment to remote locations. John operated from several locations in Florida this June. I'm not sure his dog likes his remote locations as much as he does. Here they are at the Southern Terminus.



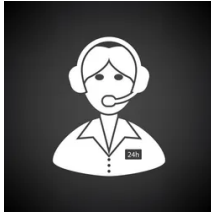
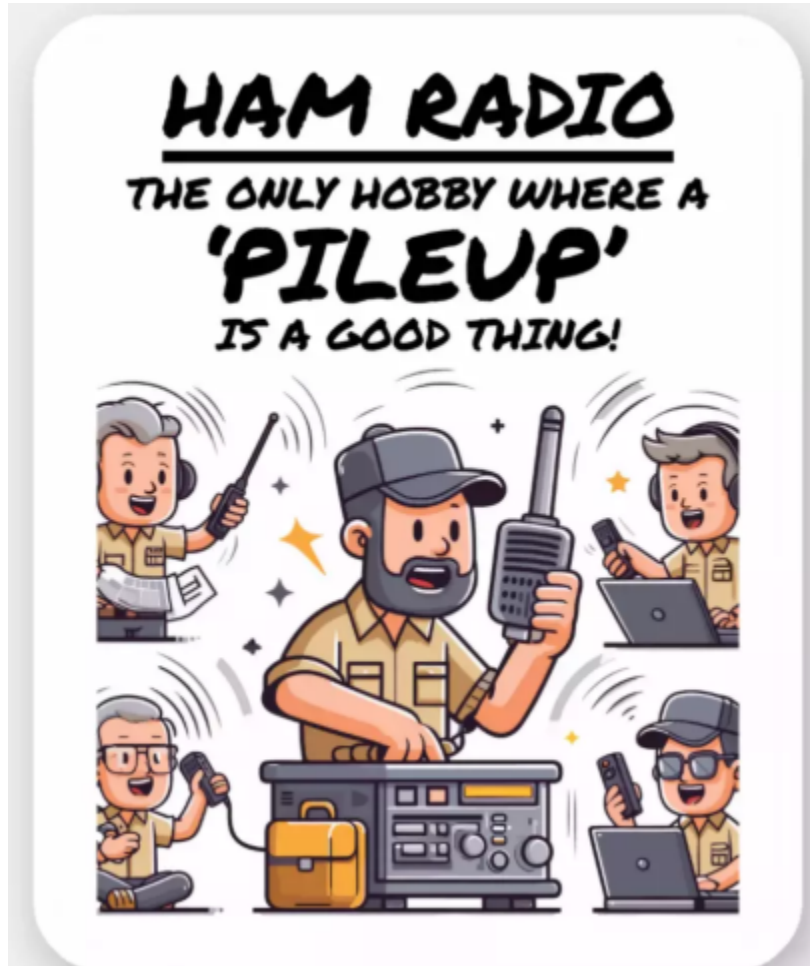
Bruce, K9WBT, also posted a well received instruction sheet titled “How to Flex Like a Pro” check it out [HERE](#). Certainly a good read if you have any plans on operating the club HF station.



Bernie, N9AZA, is our SKYWARN coordinator for the LRA. Summer is finally here. Be sure to participate in the practice nets.

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

Happy Hour, LRA Style: our 5th year



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

Project Pages:



[send me pictures of your latest projects!]

Bruce, K9WBT posted his latest creation, a 40m loading coil. Looks very professional:



Jeff, KC9JOB, got his new full sized Pinball machine up and running. With a giant OLED gaming table display, this is truly awesome. It plays dozens of authentic pinball games:



Ryan, K9NBG has apparently completed the framework for his new skyhook near Pleasant Prairie:



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. :

In order of appearance:

VE6XAD

KB9YDK

AC9OT

WO9B
W9AFB
K9SO
K0WET
K9QKL
K9WNG
KD1Z
K9WBT (NCES)

In the News:

SteppIR TO END AMATEUR ANTENNA PRODUCTION

PAUL/ANCHOR: The popular amateur radio antennas manufactured by SteppIR are being discontinued. The company announced that it is halting their production this summer. Jim Damron N8TMW has the details.

JIM: SteppIR has announced that it is stopping production of all amateur radio and other consumer antennas starting in August. The company's statement, which appears on its website, said that it would continue to honor all product warranties and provide technical support as needed.

The company said: [quote] "Given our long history of impact and innovation we don't take this decision lightly but have decided that it is necessary for our ongoing operations and to make sure we can continue to efficiently provide our existing customers with product support services." [endquote]

All antenna and spare-parts orders will be fulfilled by the company through to the end of August. After the 31st of the month, SteppIR will sell spare parts as long as the inventory permits.

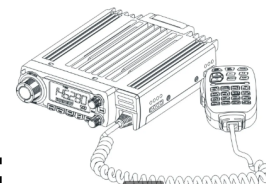
Based in Washington state, the company has been well-known in the amateur radio community since 2001. SteppIR produces a variety of mechanically adjusted, remotely tuned, frequency optimized HF/VHF Yagi, Vertical and Dipole antenna systems which serve military, commercial, emergency communications and consumer markets.

Contesting/Operating Corner



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

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



What you need (?) Department:



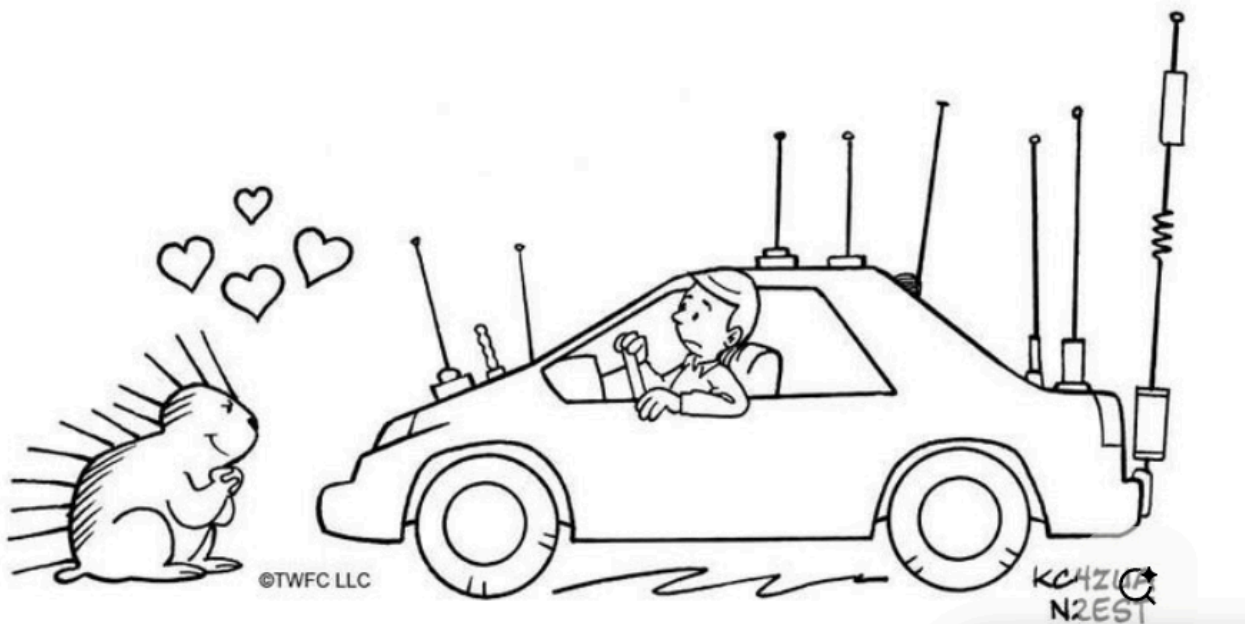
**Introduced at Dayton:
New Kenwood transceiver**

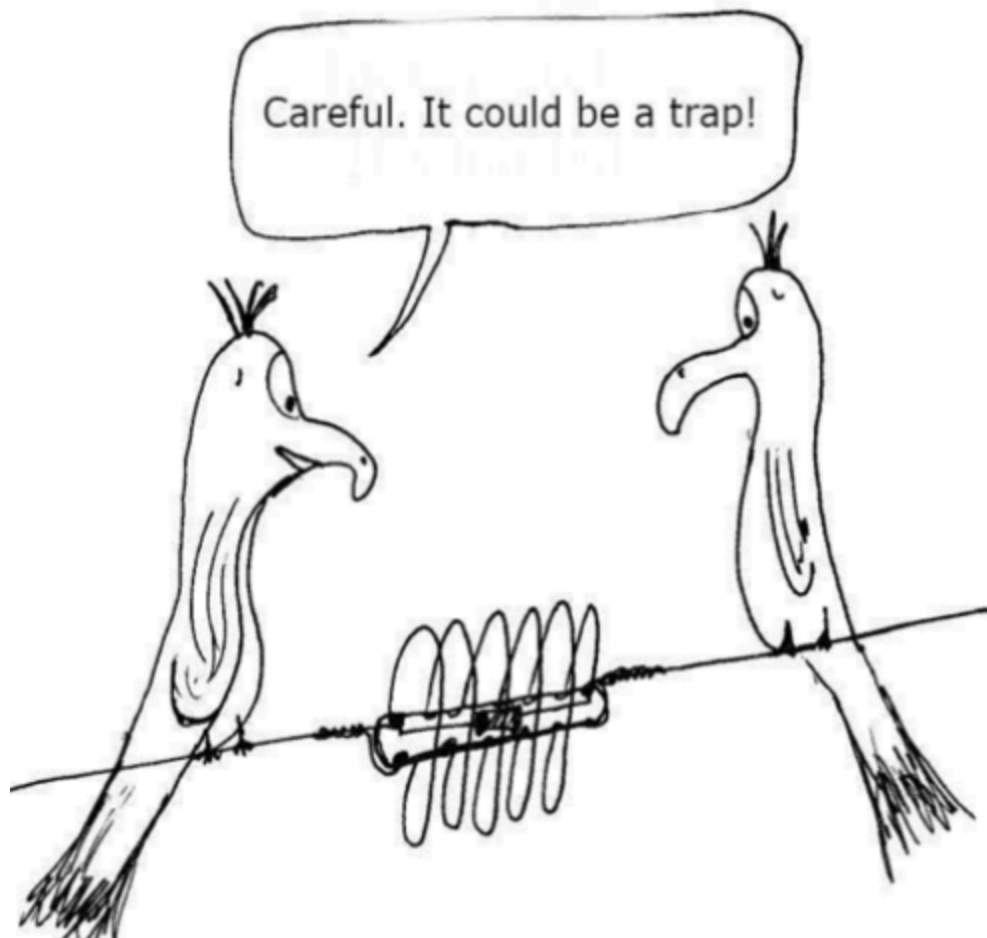


New self-contained 500w pep radio + tuner from FlexRadio. This promises to be the best \$14,000 radio you won't ever own.



Kit fun.





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

This newsletter was authorized by the LRA Secretary, AF9Q

APPENDIX I, swapmeet

FTDX3000 transceiver with all the filters and goodies: \$900

Contact Fred, K9SO

