

Newsletter: August, 2025
Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.
now d/b/a Lakeshore Radio Association



New LRA Logo variations: What's your favorite?

UNDERLINED TEXT IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE LINKS TO OTHER SITES

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

Memberships spanning 3 countries, 6 states, and two continents! 124 active members and still growing!

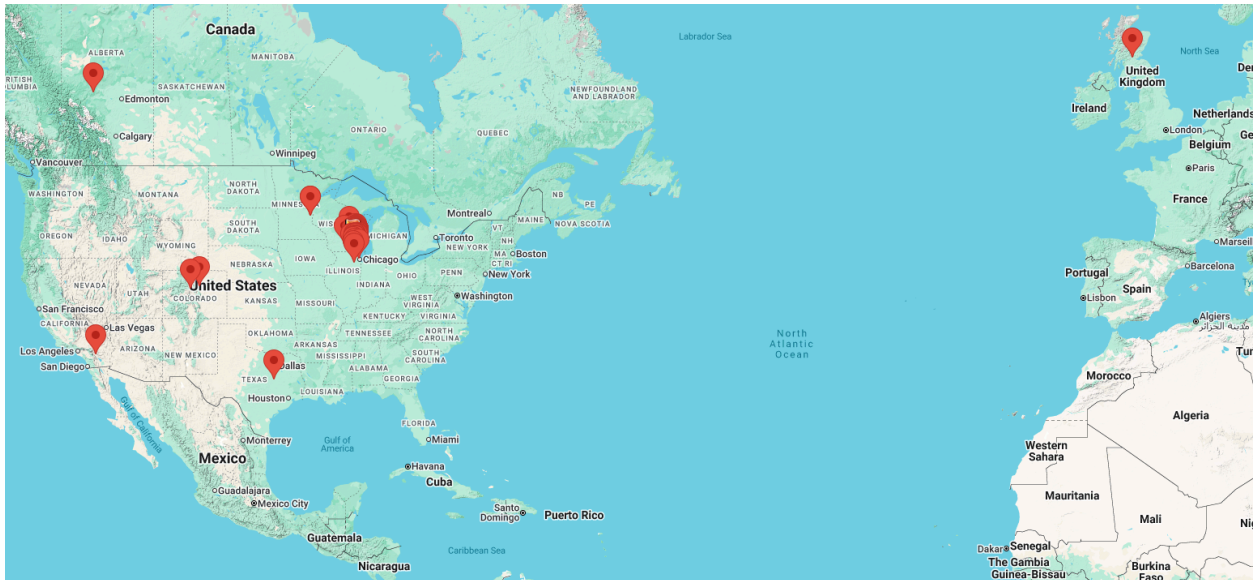
This month, we welcome

Peter Ferrand, WB2QLL joined 7/28/25

COREY Q STOHLQUIST N7STO: Joined 2025-08-01

Paul Sundquist K0GB: Joined 2025-08-01

Current membership map:



Dave Wyatt, NP2I, SK



Dave, NP2I, exemplified the very best of what it means to be part of the amateur radio community. His quiet dedication, generous spirit, and ever-reliable presence left an indelible mark on the LRA and all who had the privilege to know him. From managing club finances to faithfully organizing the Happy Hour and its certificate program, Dave gave freely of his time, energy, and resources—never seeking recognition, but always making a difference.

His deep love for amateur radio was only matched by his loyalty to friends, his community, and his country. Dave's passing is a profound loss, not just to our club, but to the wider community he touched through decades of service and fellowship. His signal may have gone silent, but his legacy will continue to resonate with all of us.

We are grateful for the time we had with Dave and extend our deepest sympathies to his family. May he rest in peace and may his memory continue to inspire.

73, Dave. You are missed.

It's Official! LAKESHORE AND MEGACYCLE CLUBS JOIN TOGETHER



Big News in Wisconsin Ham Radio!

The Lakeshore Repeater Association Welcomes the Megacycle Club!

Dan Miller, KA9OIL, and Dwayne Devore, N9PYA—Presidents of two of Wisconsin's oldest and most respected ham radio clubs—have jointly announced the merger of the Racine Megacycle Club with the Lakeshore Repeater Association (LRA), alongside members of the Wisconsin QCWC group. The result is a powerful merger that strengthens our community and deepens our roots.

The Megacycle Club, founded way back in 1947, has been a staple of Wisconsin ham radio for generations and is one of the oldest ARRL club affiliates. Known for its legacy and its iconic August hamfest, the club's traditions and spirit will now live on as part of the Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc. A new name, *Lakeshore Radio Association*, will move the joint club forward reflecting its widening radio footprint. The LRA is celebrating its 50th year in 2025.

Dan, KA9OIL, recently joined us at the LRA quarterly meeting and shared his excitement:

"We've been closely watching the growth of LRA and, in particular, the excitement around Project North Star."

Project North Star is the name of the new LRA club remote HF radio initiative. This joint program will now be called the LRA MEGACYCLE GROUP and will be a division of LRA under the overall name of Lakeshore Radio Association. The majority of Racine Megacycle Club members are already active supporters of LRA's repeaters, making this merger a natural next step in our shared journey.

This isn't just a name change—it's a bold leap into the future for ham radio in southeastern Wisconsin. With new energy, expanded reach, and a unified voice, the Lakeshore Radio Association is ready to take on new challenges, support our growing community, and lead the way in innovation and collaboration.

Stay tuned, because the airwaves are about to get a whole lot more exciting!



We're based in Wisconsin, but quickly growing an International footprint

Project North Star is ON THE AIR! You can be too!

Megacycle Group 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!

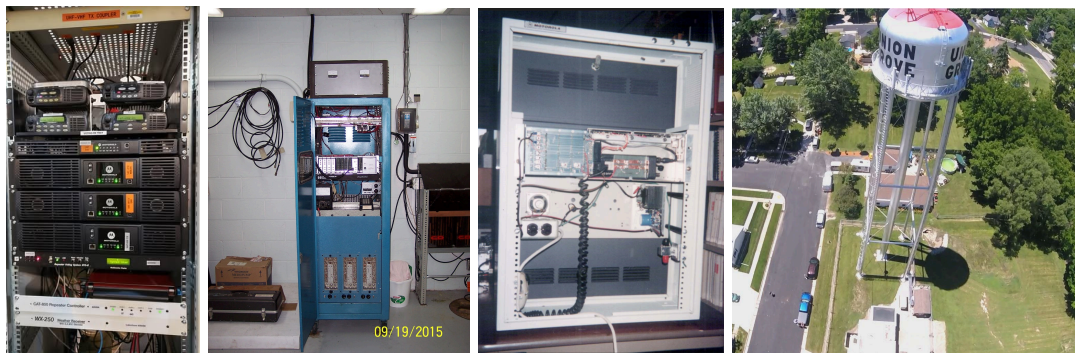
There is a one-time \$50 registration fee (waived for the GoFundMe donors) and monthly participation fees are waived until the end of 2025. Only LRA members may participate. Participants should join the ProjectNorthStar group in [Groups.IO](https://groups.io/join/ProjectNorthStar) as important operating 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! All of this is already funded.

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 or early August. 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 sites



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! 30+ participants!
- **Summer Picnic** at the Racine County Fairgrounds (Settler’s Park) Sunday, Aug 3, 2025
- **LRA Megacycle Group Annual Freefest:** August 9 (see below)
- **International Lighthouse Lightship** event August 16/17 (see below)
- **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)

Elected LRA Officers: N9PYA, K9SO, AF9Q, KC9UJO Appointed Members: N9OIG, WB9COW

Bylaw amendment proposal:

The board has approved the drafting of an amendment to the bylaws to add a second trustee for W9UDU. This will be a new voting board position appointed by the elected officers.

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.

Free Fest 2025 – August 9th

Let's get out and support this! For years, this event has been free, but now that it officially becomes an LRA event, it presents us with a fundraising opportunity.

The board is having conversations about moving forward towards a fundraising event next year. **Member comments are solicited.**

Details about this year's event may be found in the appendix.

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.
- **Megacycle Group Freefest, Saturday, August 9**
- **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.

HOW TO JOIN:

- 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 then Matt 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, W9UDU, is already on line.

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

FT-8 on Megacycle HF radios:

Tim, K9RZL, has posted detailed instructions about working FT-8 from both locations. Link [HERE](#). The file is also on the NorthStar forum, HH forum, and the LRA shared Google drive.

Also, Tim and others have been working some great DX with QSOs in Australia and Europe becoming commonplace.

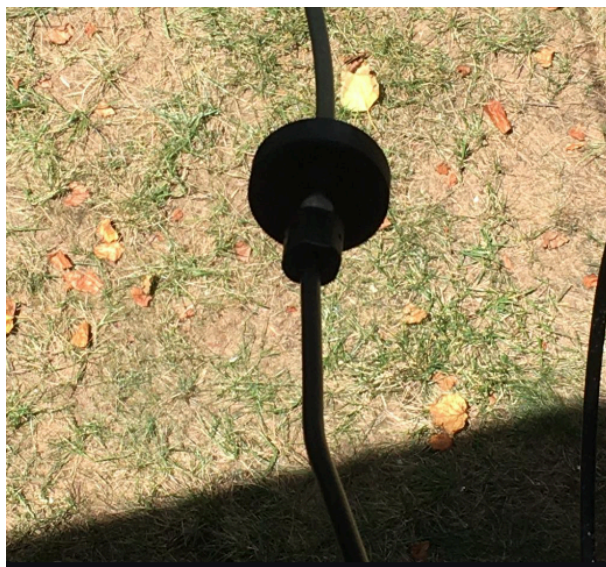
Unsung Heroes of the LRA:

Our western UHF receiver site way out west in Walworth County is ours to use because of an agreement with the tower owners to maintain the property. **Kevin, N9OIG** and **Brad, K9WNG** are pictured here doing all the work to keep LRA's UHF receiver on this old AT&T Long Line tower!



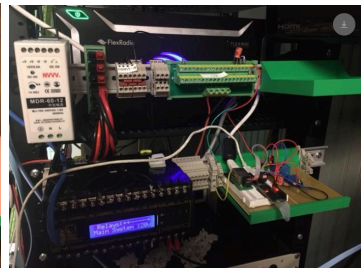
Get the bugs out!

Our North Carolina Megacycle station (W9UDU) suddenly went off the air in early July. A long 800 mile trip to the radio site revealed a broken feedline that had been devoured by the native ant population. The ants were coming off the dipole balun up high in the tree and following the aerial coax line to the back porch where they could dine on the PVC insulation in leisure. **Jeff, KC9JOB**, came up with this 3D printed barrier design that fits over one of the coax connectors. It consists of an oil lamp wick soaked in Ortho Home Defense. Ants must cross over this area to proceed. Thanks to Jeff's unique design, the steady stream of ants has gone to zero! Two weeks now and the bugs are still gone!



3D Printing for Megacycle Group

My new Bambu PS1 in NC has been busy printing DIN rail mounting parts for Pi's and proto boards used at W9UDU in NC. Here are some vertical and horizontal DIN Rail mounting cases for Raspberry Pi's and misc project boards. All designed by our very own **Jeff, KC9JOB**, of course. We'll be including DIN rails for mounting the things we add at Raymond and eliminate the need for a relay rack. The printer has become such a part of my life I bought another one for Wisconsin.



We need you

... to Support the LRA Activities Volunteer and JOIN IN!

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 will sponsor club station activity there. Our antennas will be all the way at the top of the lighthouse, some 300 feet up! Mike needs operator volunteers and some help in setting up a POTA-like operation there. August 16 and 17 are the dates. Contact Mike and let him know you're coming.

This is a unique opportunity to operate **HF KR9RK/W9UDU** from a gorgeous location.

Join us for a beautiful Lake Michigan Lakefront activity!

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, October 28** 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.

Officer Elections

The offices of **Secretary and Vice President** are on the docket for membership vote at the October quarterly membership meeting. Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary at **Secretary@KR9RK.COM** 30 days prior to the election per LRA bylaws. Participating voters must be members in good standing for at least 30 days prior to the election and be present at the meeting. Both **Matt, AF9Q** and **Fred, K9SO** have indicated their willingness to serve another term.

Terms are 2 years long and only two elected officer positions come up for election each year to assure continuity of leadership.



LRA Member Activities:



K9SO Annual Gaian Eclipse party success. 14 overnight guests

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 began precisely at 8:37 p.m. local time. Totality lasted approximately 10 hours. "An event so large, the whole Earth participates"



Enhanced 80m and 40m propagation was confirmed during this eclipse!

Speaking of Eclipses, check out HamSCI in the August issue of QST:

What is HamSCI?

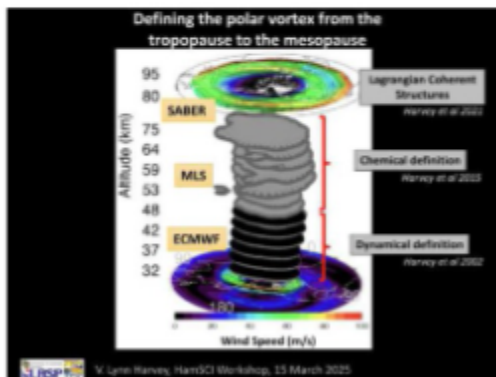
Founded in 2015 in preparation for the 2017 Solar Eclipse QSO Party, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation, or HamSCI, was created to bring the amateur and professional communities together for mutual benefit. HamSCI has three primary objectives. First, to advance scientific research and understanding through amateur radio activi-

ties. Second, to encourage the development of new technologies to support this research. Third, to provide educational opportunities for the amateur community and the general public. Today, the HamSCI community is engaged in multiple publicly funded projects and is recognized as an official NASA Citizen Science project.

An Invited Tutorial: The Role of the Polar Vortex in Atmosphere-Ionosphere Coupling

Dr. V. Lynn Harvey

In this talk, presented at the 2025 HamSCI Workshop, I provided a comprehensive overview of how the polar vortex contributes to atmosphere-ionosphere coupling, with a focus on “bottom-up” processes that begin in the lower atmosphere and extend upward to affect geospace. The talk began with a tutorial on the polar vortex itself — what it is, why it forms, and how it varies across different spatial and temporal scales (see Figure 1). The wintertime polar vortex is a fast-flowing jet stream that forms in the stratosphere and mesosphere, encircling a region characterized by confined descent. While often discussed in the context of meteorology, the polar vortex is also a critical driver of space weather variability.



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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.

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SKYWARN

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 **Rick, KC9UJO**, and **Dwayne, N9PYA**.

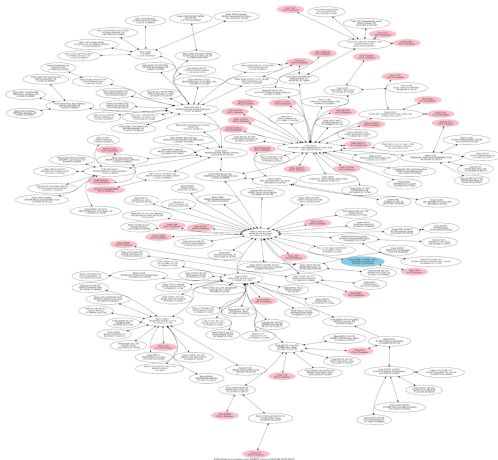
Happy Hour, LRA Style: our 5th year



Mike, WW9X, has volunteered to fill the awards certificate void left by the passing of Dave, NP2I. Thanks to Mike for picking up this important function.

We meet every day at 5:00pm Central US time just to exchange our happy thoughts.

It seems we're setting new check-in records every month nowadays. New moderators from Texas are making things interesting. This is a bubble chart of all the stations connected and listening in. This is truly becoming an International event. Screenshot courtesy of Robin, WB9COW:



Each “bubble” represents at least one participant

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!]

No reported projects reported this month. Too many outdoor activities!



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](#)].

In the News:

Amateur Radio Helps Locate Missing Mother and Son

07/25/2025

Amateur radio had a crucial role in locating a mother and her 9-year son lost in California's Stanislaus National Forest. On Friday July 11, 2025, the pair was reported overdue from a day trip to Camp Wolfeboro, a popular scout camp in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, according to a news release.

On Saturday July 12, the Calaveras County Volunteer Search and Rescue Team (SAR) was conducting its monthly training exercise along the Stanislaus River when members received notification that Tami and son Stirling had been reported missing since Friday afternoon and were not answering their cell phones.

The SAR team set up a command post at Black Springs Off-Highway Vehicle riding (OHV) Recreational Area and quickly began initiating a road-based search using four-wheel-drive vehicles and air support from the California Highway Patrol.

Joining the search was a Deputy and a Forest Service Law Enforcement Ranger who responded to 911 texts from campers in the area that a vehicle possibly matching the description of the pair's missing car had been found. The SAR team began to find handwritten notes posted near a remote Forest Service road and then another about a mile away that included a telephone number and the names of the missing individuals. Just before 6:00 PM, the car and the lost mother and son were found. But the rescue was not over.

SAR team members were unable to communicate with their command post using conventional frequencies and cell phones from their deep woods location. So they used amateur radio frequencies to report their emergency traffic. The call was immediately answered by a retired El Dorado County communications supervisor, who is also an amateur radio operator, monitoring from his home. He contacted the El Dorado 911 center, which provided the information to Calaveras County Dispatch. The SAR command post was notified, and the mother and her son were transported to waiting family members.

Young Stirling also had a hand with the rescue. He used his scout whistle to blow SOS, the internationally recognized Morse code distress signal, to give searchers a better chance of locating their position.

ARRL Files Comments to Protect 70-Centimeter Amateur Band

07/22/2025

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® has filed comments with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to oppose part of an application that would impact the 70-centimeter amateur band for telemetry, tracking and command (TT&C) of satellites. The application, from AST & Science, LLC (AST), requests “unprecedented authorization to 430-440 MHz for a constellation totaling 248 satellites to communicate with five ground stations using up to five channels with up to 256 kHz bandwidth.”

[READ ARRL'S FULL COMMENTS \[PDF\]](#)



"So Bob...why did your ex-wife give you a new climbing belt for Christmas?"

Contesting/Operating Corner

Join the Megacycle group and operate the club station!



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

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

Ten Ten International Summer QSO Party — SSB

The Ten Ten (10-10) International QSO Party – SSB is this weekend, beginning at 0000 UTC on Saturday, August 2, and concluding at 2359 UTC on Sunday, August 3. The 10-10 QSO parties are a great way for anyone interested in operating on 10 meters to get on the air. All amateurs with operating privileges on the 10-meter band may participate. For rules and other information about Ten Ten International, visit www.ten-ten.org.

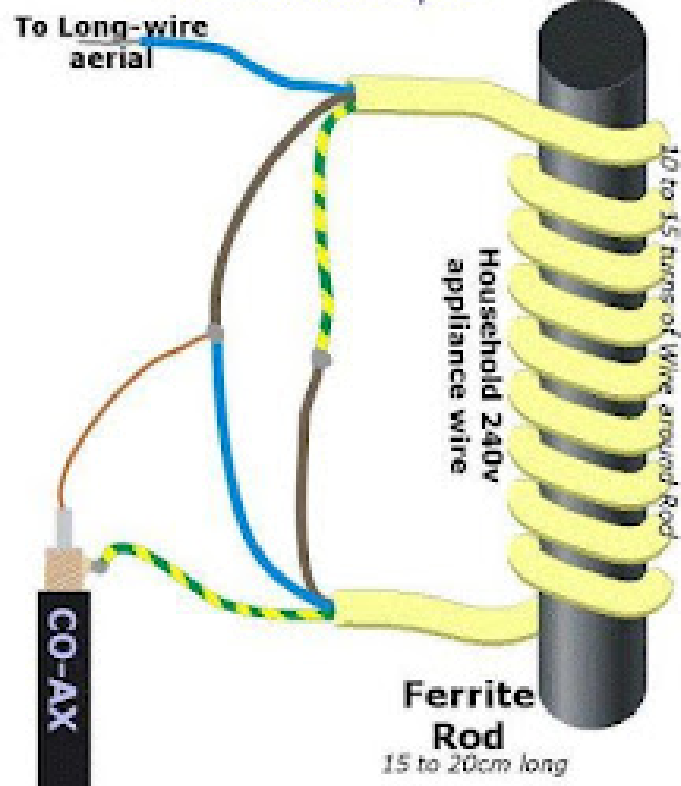
50 MHz Fall Sprint

The VHF contest season is in full swing! The 50 MHz Fall Sprint will be held on Saturday, August 9 from 1800 – 2200 UTC. Participants can enter in the Single Operator High Power, Single Operator Low Power, or Rover categories. All simplex modes of operation are allowed (CW, SSB, FM, AM, and digital.) Contacts through repeaters or via satellite are not allowed and will not count as contest contacts. Full rules are available at packratvhf.com/2025_Fall_Sprint_Rules.pdf.

Tech Corner:

Voltage Balun / "Magnetic Balun"

From GW0VMR's plan



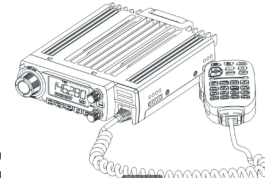
Improve that long wire antenna performance? Will it work?

Baluns:

The term "balun" comes from "balanced-unbalanced" so it should be pronounced accordingly. Here's a great practical paper on choosing the right balun for your next antenna:

[PRACTICAL BALUNS](#)

What you need (?) Department:



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RigExpert antenna analyzers are now upgradeable. A unit for .1 to 70MHz (\$350) can be software upgraded to .1 to 230MHz for \$100 and from .1 to 500MHz for \$300:



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 written by K9SO as an authorized assistant to the LRA Secretary, AF9Q

↓ more

APPENDIX I, FOR SALE:

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

Contact Fred, K9SO



even more

Appendix II

Free Fest 2025 – August 9th

Brought to you by The Lakeshore Radio Association Megacycle Group

Date: August 9 2025

Time: 6:00AM to 1:00PM

Location: Greater Racine Kennel Club

6320 Six Mile Road Racine, 53402

GPS. N.42-48-51, W.87-51-24

Between Highway 38 and 31

Talk in: 147.270+ pl 127.3

No overnight camping

Exhibitors must bring their own tables and chairs

No smoking in the building

Free vending and parking

Donations Welcome! Questions? Contact Dan Miller email: ka9oil@yahoo.com



scottfreeside