

Newsletter: September, 2025

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

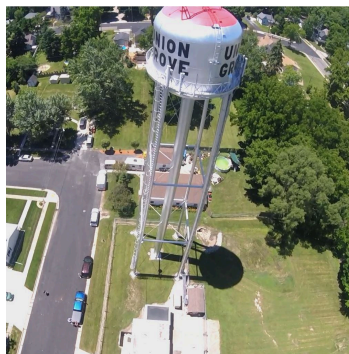
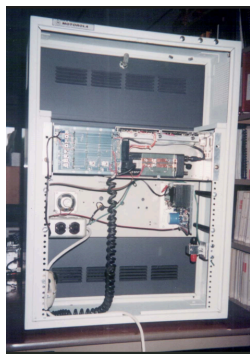
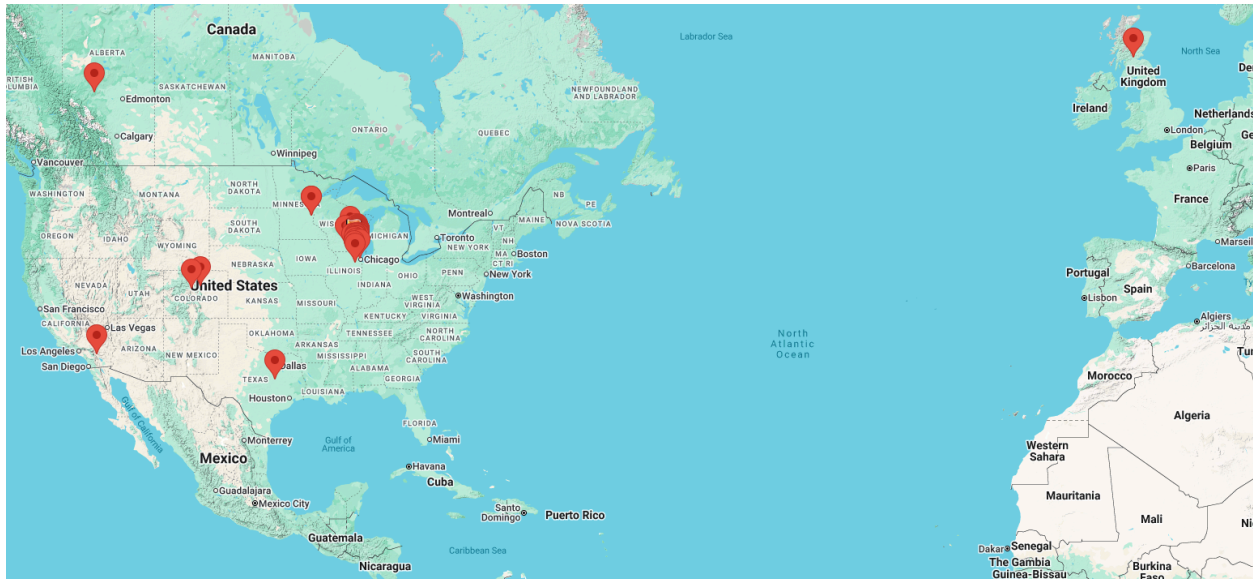
Memberships spanning 3 countries, 6 states, and two continents! 126 active members and still growing!

This month, we welcomed three new members:

Matthew T Juranitch	KC9UPR	2025-08-05
RYLAND SCOTT	WW4GA	2025-08-14
ROBERT D WONDERLING	WB9WX	2025-08-28

Sadly, we lost Paul, KB9JPN (SK), Dave, NP2I (SK)

Current membership map:



historic sites



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

The Megacycle Group has a new HF beam antenna UP 62 feet IN THE AIR!



Our new HF beam antenna up 62 feet

Next up: our 6 element 6m beam will be placed at the top of this tower.

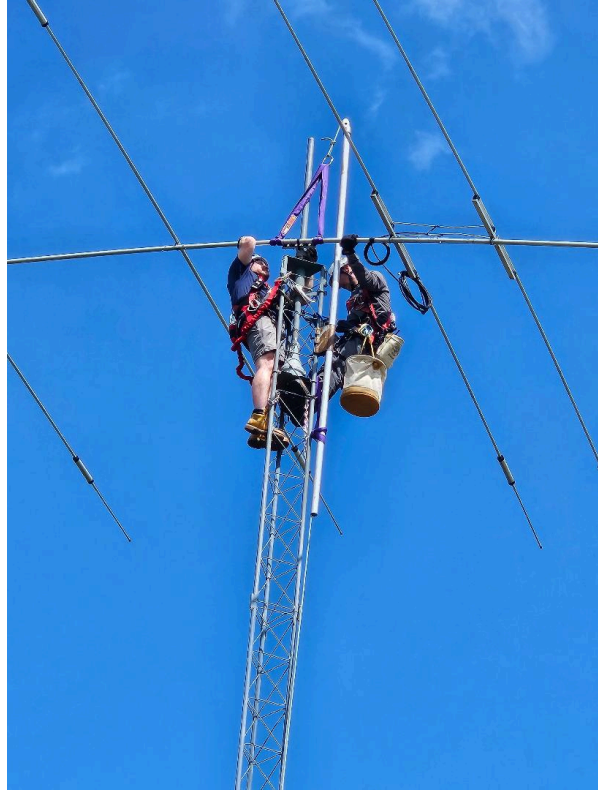
Orthogonal 80/40m dipoles running out to the other two towers from the central tower.
Up 60 feet !! In effect, a steerable array on 80/40m

This location will eventually support two Flex Radios and a world class antenna system.



Jeff and Steve in the weeds hooking up one of the guy lines





What a great team effort over the Labor Day weekend led by **Rick, KC9UJO**. His on-site helpers were **Emil, N9FBF**, **Steve, N9FSE**, **Matt**,

KB9OIV, Jeff, KC9JOB, Steve, KC9FSW, Bernie, N9AZA, and Steve, NO9B. Thanks to everyone who made this happen.



From the board

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

What a month! We started out with our summer picnic, went right into our first LRA/Megacycle Hamfest, followed by our on the air lighthouse event and finally our first “big gun” antenna installation party for the Megacycle group.

... and what a summer full of activities: we started out with our third “Taste of Field Day” event at the end of June:



Followed by our Summer Picnic at the Racine County Fairgrounds (Settler's Park) Sunday, Aug 3, 2025

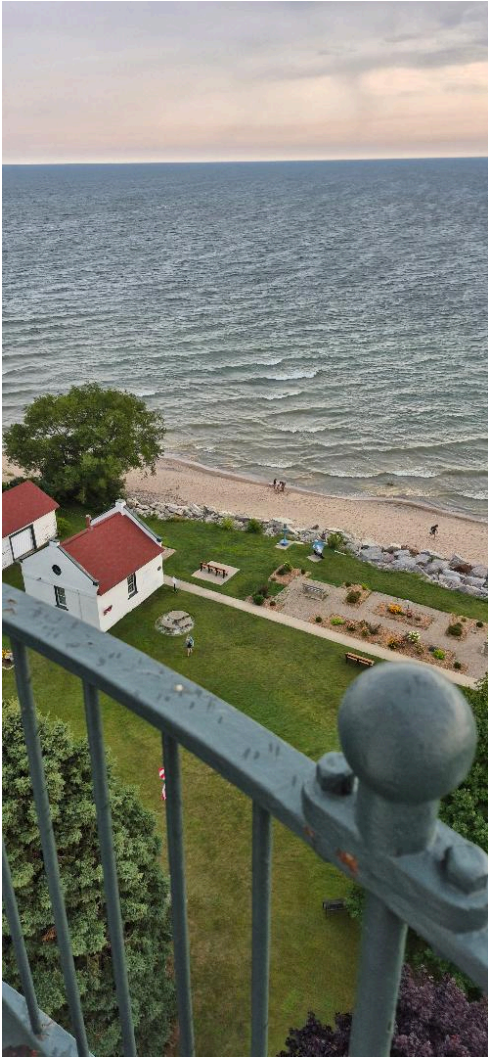


Well attended, the group had lots of fun on a beautiful afternoon.

- **LRA Megacycle Group Annual Freefest: August 9 (see below)**

Then came our International Lighthouse Lightship event August 16/17

Mike, WW9X operated along with several members of the LRA during the International event. A long climb up to the top!





Incidentally, Mike is a tour guide for the lighthouse and spent many hours restoring that magnificent Fresnel light lens.

YET TO COME

- **50th Anniversary special event station K5O** during the weekend of September 19 - 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.

Lots of time slots available for this once in a lifetime event SIGN UP NOW and reserve your time slot. This is the perfect time to show off our new Megacycle Group site.

Follow the link [HERE](#)

SIGN UP NOW

Dates shown as mm/dd/yyyy CDT

Date	Time	Available Slot
09/19/2025 Friday	4:00am-6:00am	1 0 of 1 slots filled Sign Up
	6:00am-8:00am	1 0 of 1 slots filled Sign Up
	8:00am-10:00am	1 0 of 1 slots filled Sign Up
	10:00am-12:00am	1 All slots filled Full Fred Glenn FG K9SO CW
	12:00pm-2:00pm	1 0 of 1 slots filled Sign Up
	2:00pm-4:00pm	1 0 of 1 slots filled Sign Up
	4:00pm-6:00pm	1 0 of 1 slots filled Sign Up
	6:00pm-8:00pm	1 0 of 1 slots filled Sign Up
	8:00pm-	1 Sign Up

- Annual Christmas Party, December (TBD)

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

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 Megacycle Group

<<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.

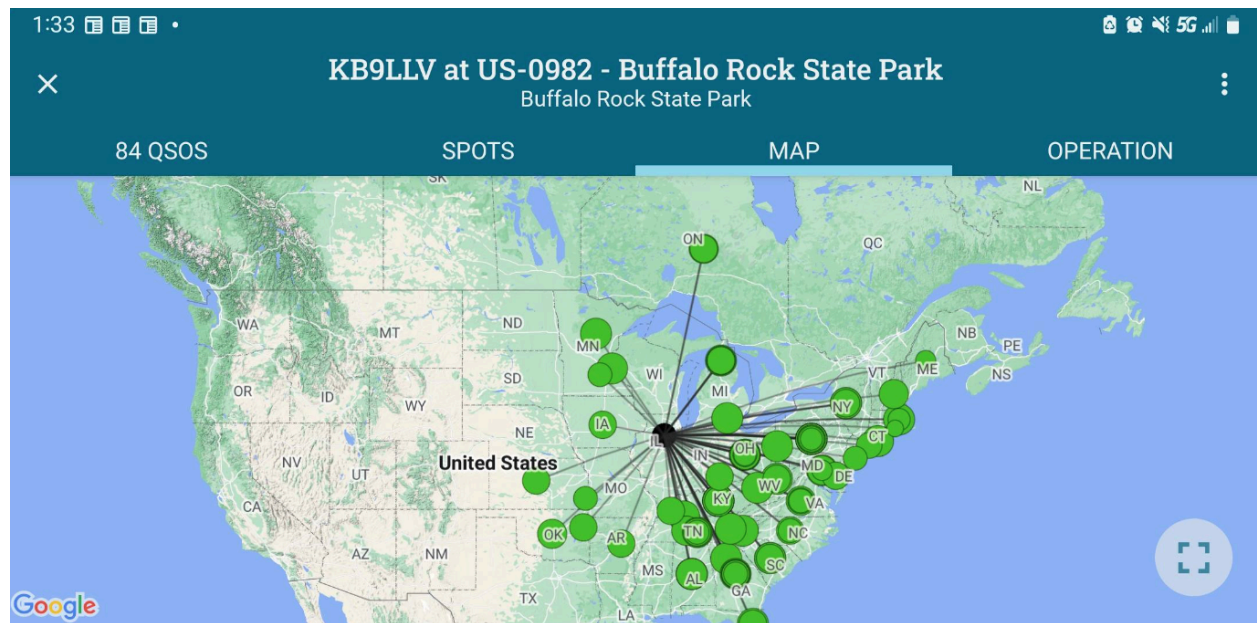
A special thank you to Emil and the tower climbing crew to make this happen!

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.

Kevin, KB9LLV has been busy on POTA



John, AC90T activated a new park and got hundreds of QSOs. Alas, he didn't send me any pictures. What fun!

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.

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:



Rees, N9UUO just ordered a new Elecraft KX3 radio



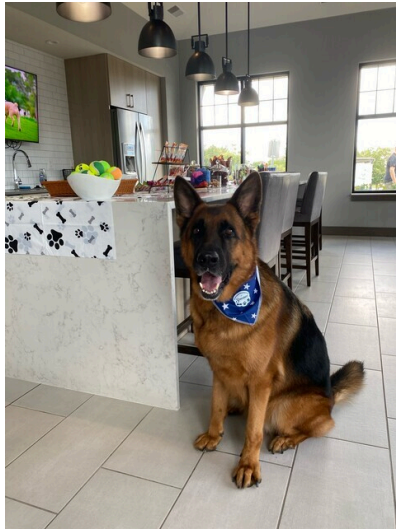
KX3 and KXP03 paddle (sold separately)

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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.

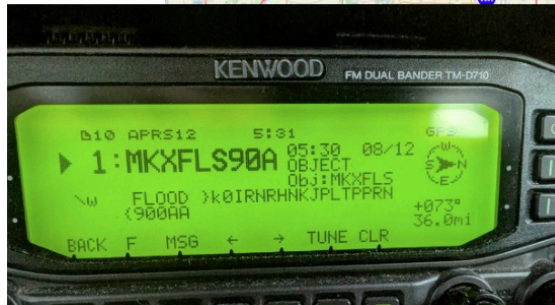
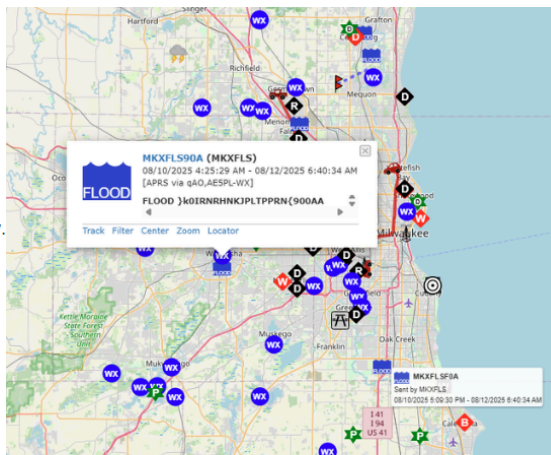
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Marrio, K9GLK celebrated “International Dog Day” this month:



Ryan, K9NBG reported flooding conditions around the area on APRS:

the flooding now.

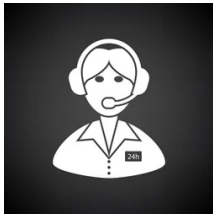




SKYWARN

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**.

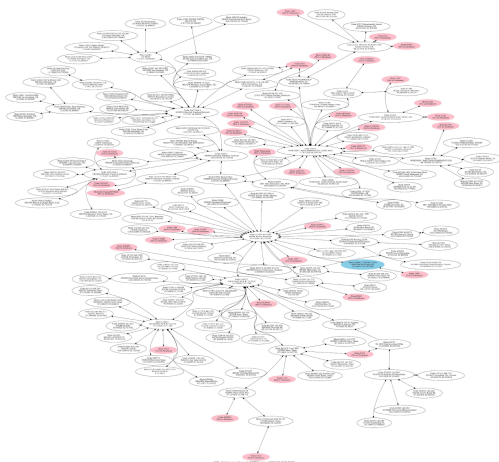
Happy Hour, LRA Style: our 5th year



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



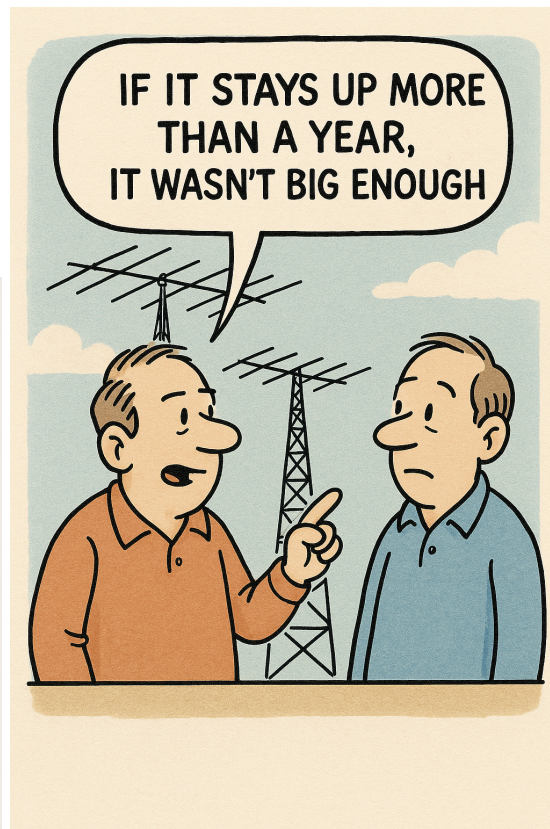
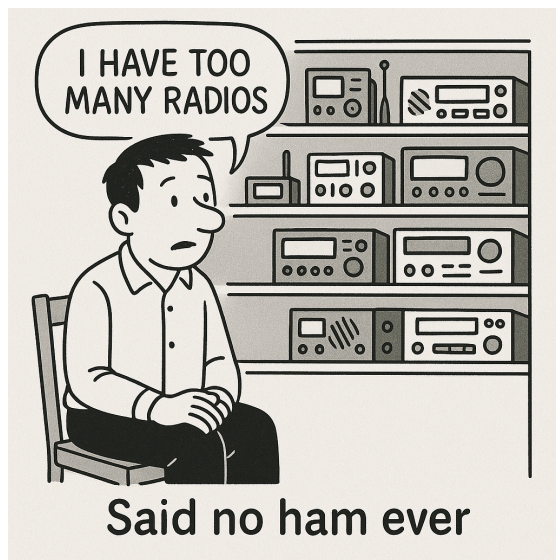
Many of our members meet for an informal breakfast every Saturday morning at 8:00am at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville. Everyone is welcome.

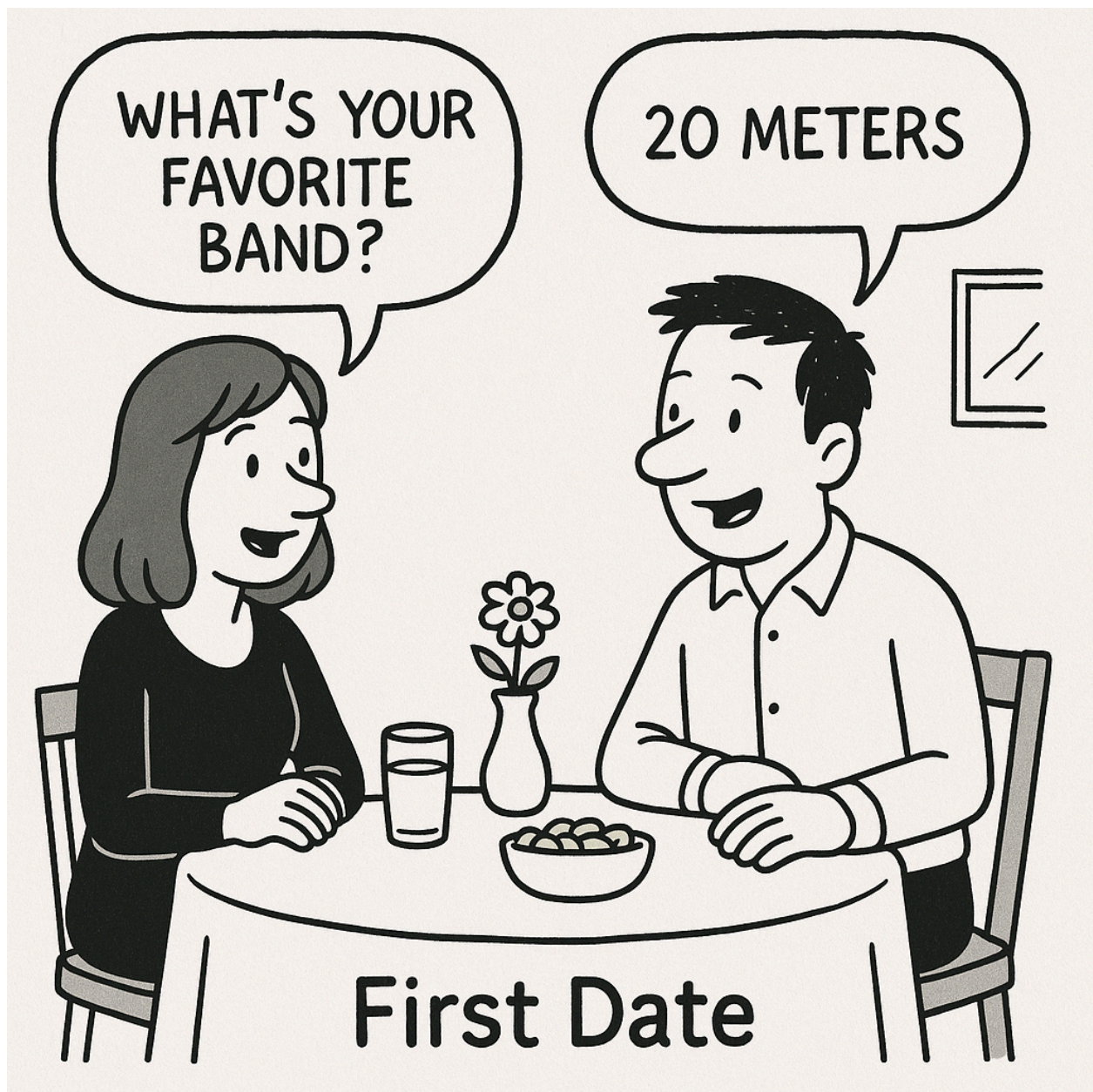


LRA Happy Hour Email Group on Groups.IO



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





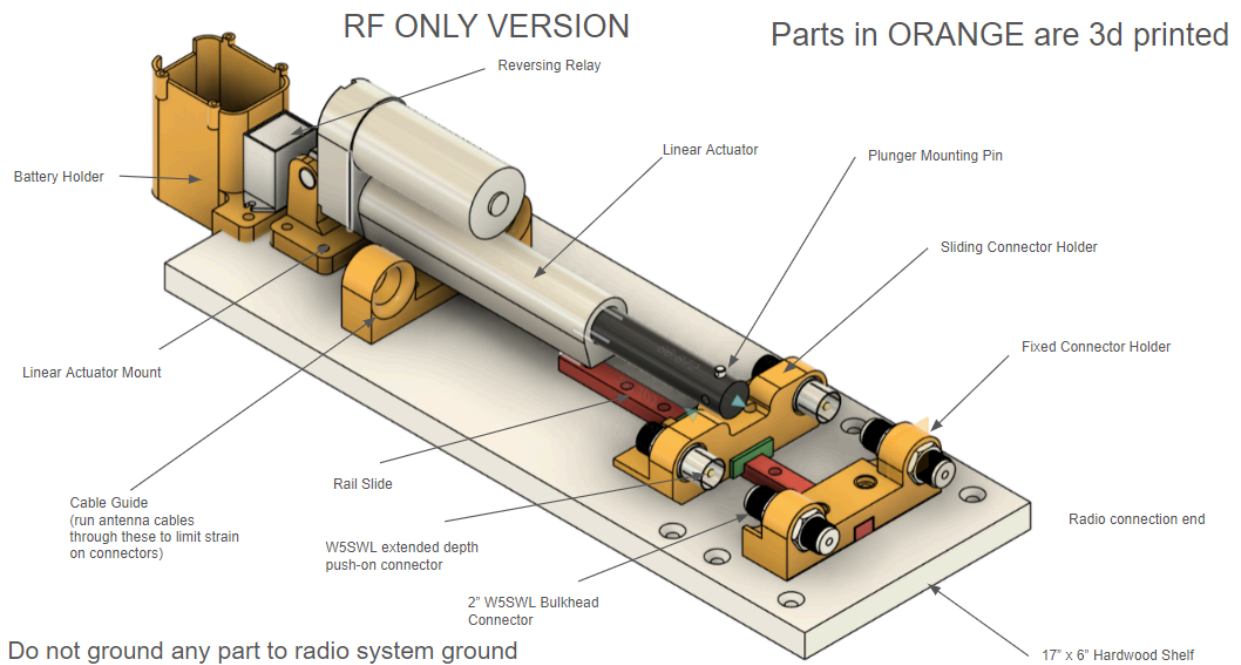




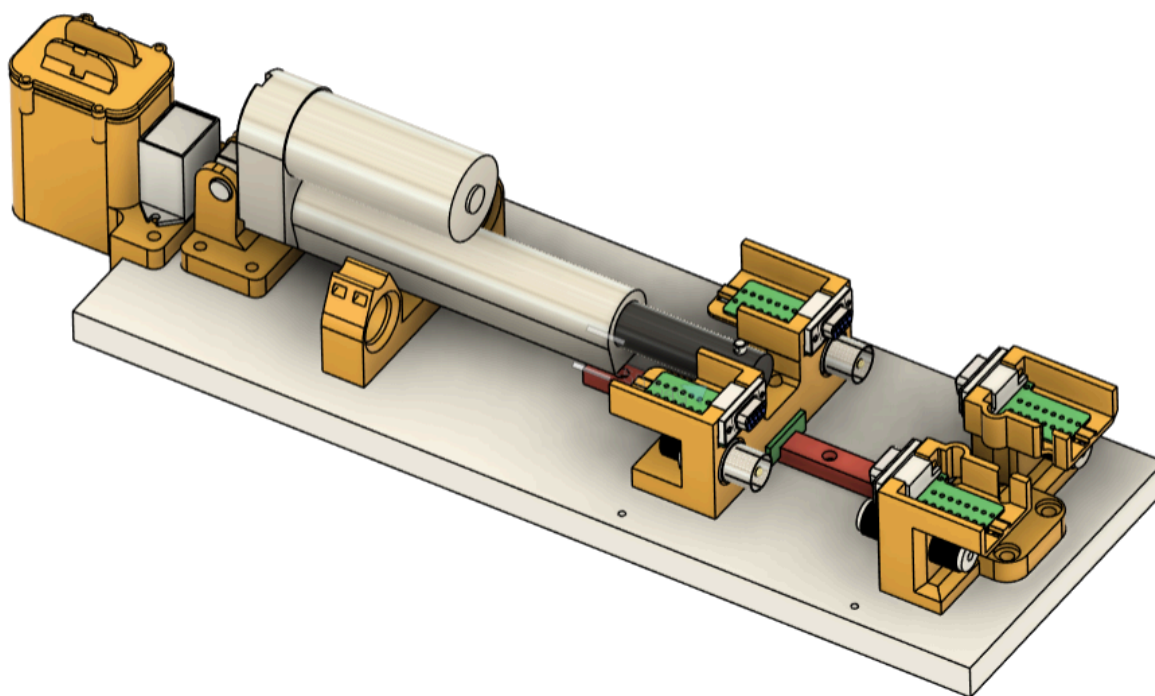
Project Pages:



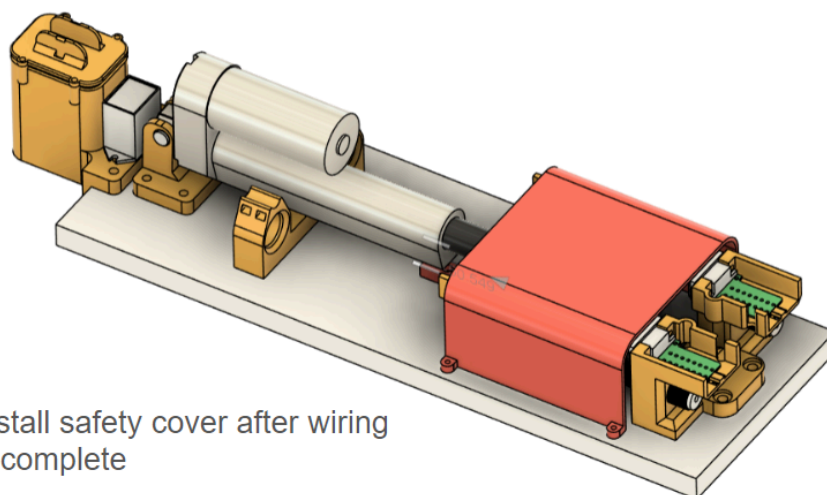
The latest antenna
disconnect from **Jeff, KC9JOB**



Do not ground any part to radio system ground
Antenna side cable shield should only be connected to the entry point ground rod



With Safety Cover Installed



Install safety cover after wiring
is complete

This looks complicated, but all critical parts are 3D printed and assembly is a snap. It only takes about an hour to put all the pieces together and the only tool you need is a screwdriver. Total parts cost is about \$100. We're making the printer .stl files available to LRA Megacycle Group members.

We'll be announcing this project more widely and we'll be asking for LRA donations from anyone who finds this useful. This might be a nice fundraiser for us.

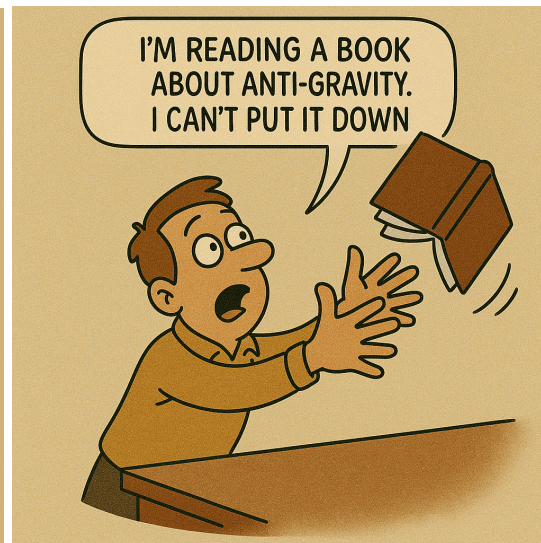
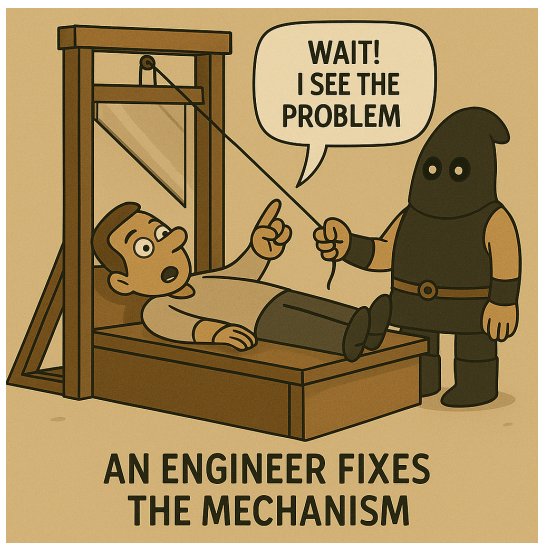
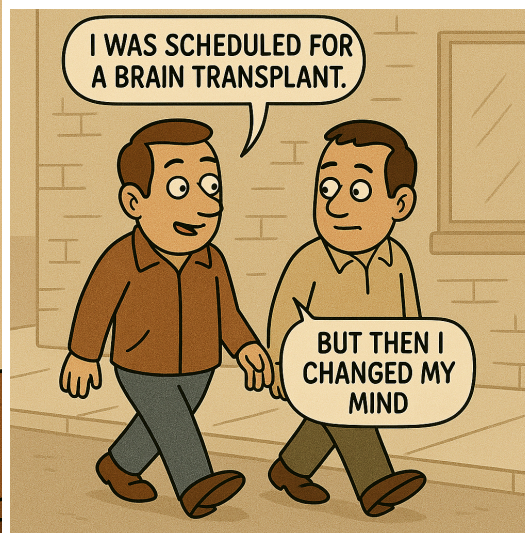
Bruce, K9WBT has successfully built one too!



Bruce, K9WBT, has shut down his weekly Winlink Wednesday group after a great run. That was fun Bruce! What's in store for us next???



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In the News:

The following is a press release from [Passion Radio](#):

European Ham Radio Retailer Passion Radio Suspends US Shipments Following 15% Tariff Increase

To our US Amateur Radio Clients and Community

Because of the recent 15% tariff increase on products imported from the European Union, the suspension of several carrier services to the US, and the growing complexity of the US import system, our online shop [Passion-Radio.com](#) must suspend all shipments to the United States until further notice.

In particular, La Poste, the French national postal operator, suspended parcel shipments to the United States as of August 25, 2025 (1), removing one of the main EU-US postal channels. At the same time, UPS announced that starting September 8, 2025, an additional international processing fee will apply to all import shipments, regardless of origin.

There has also been some misunderstanding regarding customs procedures. When parcels arrive in the United States, the buyer must settle not only the 15% customs duty, but also the service fee charged by the carrier for filing customs declarations and advancing duties to US Customs. These charges are billed locally at delivery and remain outside the seller's control. Import duties and tariffs are always the responsibility of the buyer, not the seller.

<https://twiar.net/?p=35093>

Contesting/Operating Corner

Join the Megacycle group and operate the club station!



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

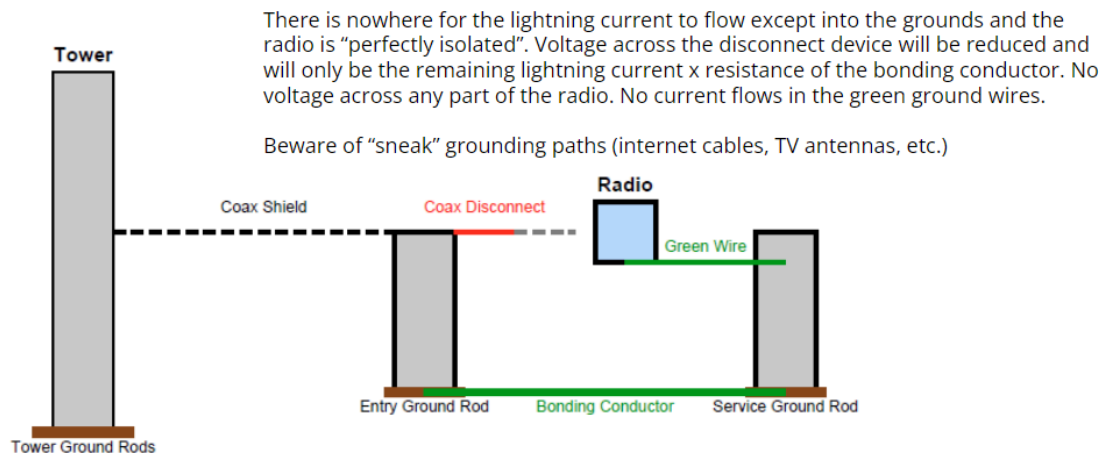
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

Tech Corner:

Lightning protection:

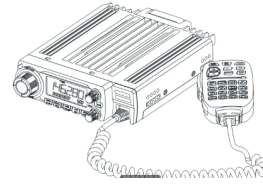
We Hams have an advantage over most commercial installations in that we don't have to keep operating during lightning events. We can disconnect our antennas and keep them safe.

Creating the Radio Equipment “Island”



Ideally, most of the lightning current will flow into the Tower and Entry point grounds. Bonding conductor is important!

What you need (?) Department:





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Steve, NU5D reported this find:



\$61.88 (with \$3 coupon) IT WORKS !!!!! You need an external power source - (small battery pack?) I just hooked to a 146.090 receiver (that has been on a HP8921 - the box (for lack of a better name) went down to neg 130 dBm - has 1K test tone and can ramp up and down. It says it will go up to neg 70dBm - this is a *GAME CHANGER* for repeater owners.... de nu5d. (on Amazon)

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





Harris Unity XG-100P – All Band HT

VHF, UHF-L, UHF-H, and 700/800 P25

Front Panel Programming

Current Codeplug:

- **Ham**
 - Lakeshore UHF & VHF
 - FM38
 - Skywarn
 - Many more
- **GMRS**
- **Public Safety**
 - MKE Co
 - Waukesha Co
 - Racine Co
 - Kenosha Co
 - Walworth Co
 - WI State Patrol
 - IL State Police
 - National Inter Op

Includes:

- Charger & Power Cord
- Shoulder Mic

Condition: Good (fully functional)

Qty: 2

\$600 Each or B.O.

Contact Marrio, K9GLK at his QRZ email address



even more



www.scritchfields.com