

Lakeshore Radio Association



December 2025 Newsletter

Member Statistics:
Active Members: 132

New Memberships: (Last 90 Days)

Name
JOHN E MELCHER
RICHARD E HAWTHORNE
John D Hines
Peter M Haas
Gevork Seifert
Blake R Thomas
Daryl Hooke

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- The board approved moving the “Christmas Party” into January. It will be held at [Birchwood Grill 7515 125th Ave, Bristol, WI 53142](#) on January 10. Go to [KR9RK.COM](#) for signup. Festivities begin at 5:00pm sharp.
- The board asked Greg, W9GTH, to draft an amendment to the bylaws creating a new appointed board position as W9UDU trustee. A proposed amendment will be presented to the membership (following board review) at the January 2026 quarterly meeting.
- The assets of the Racine Megacycle club, one of Wisconsin’s oldest clubs (since 1947), have been transferred to the LRA Megacycle group’s building fund. This transfer is because of the merger of Megacycle and LRA last quarter. The trailer and several other hard assets are being stored inside K9SO’s “Q-SO Qorners” barn.
- Over \$500 in donations were recorded through sticker sales, new Megacycle memberships, Raspberry Pi sales, and other general donations at the October meeting.

- Presentations made by KC9JOB and K9SO at October membership meeting: CLICK [HERE](#) to view**

The map displays the world with labels for major countries, oceans, and seas. Red pins indicate the locations of the first COVID-19 cases. The locations are: United States (multiple pins in the Northeast, Midwest, and West), Canada (one pin in the east), United Kingdom (one pin in the south), and Australia (one pin in the southeast). The map also shows other countries like China, South Korea, Japan, India, and various European and African nations.

If your membership is expiring this year, you've received a reminder from Ham Club Online. Once again, we've kept the fees stable at only \$25 (plus fees). LRA depends on these renewals to keep our operations going. It's a small annual donation for a great cause. Please renew now at

KR9RK.COM

Megacycle Group



A new 40m dipole (up 50 feet) has been installed. This installation completes our scheduled build plans for the season. A new building entry panel is complete with arrestors inside.

A new weekly net has formed. We meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm CST on the LRA repeaters. We talk about the Megacycle group's HF operating experiences and provide assistance in operating the club's stations. All are welcome to attend and/or listen in.



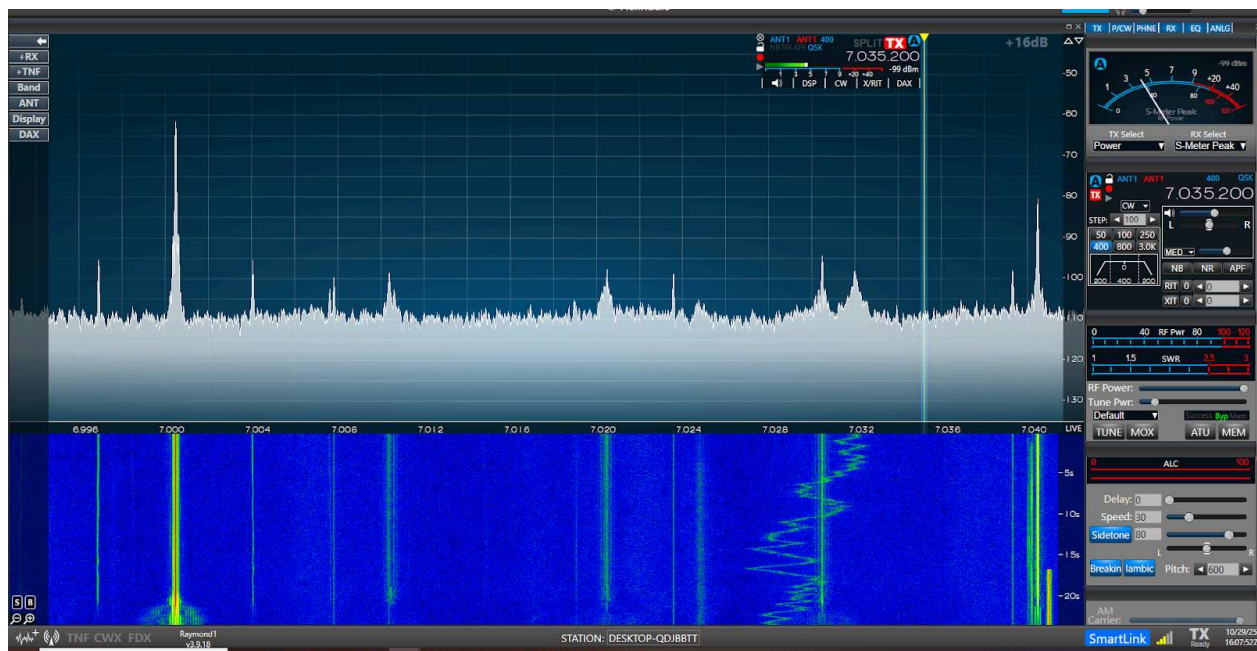
Pseudo warning of "480 VOLTS" was added instead of the suggested "Warning:100,000 ohms"

How to Join and operate the station

The LRA board created a separate entity within the organization. The goal was that the HF activities would not be a drain on the club's legacy Repeater operations in any way. While LRA membership is required, a separate initiation fee of \$50 is required to get set up.

A simplified procedure document has been created detailing the process of Megacycle Group radio access

Click [HERE](#) to view how to join.



Status:

3 radios at 2 locations are operational

A 4th antenna, a 40m dipole up nearly 50 feet, has been installed This antenna is a high performer into Europe. Coupled with the GAP Titan, we now have high performance antennas from 80m-6m.

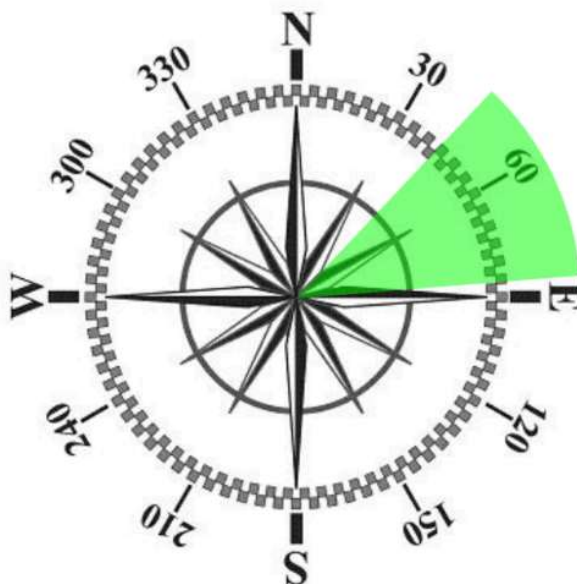
We purchased a new Green Heron RT-21 rotor controller giving us full remote control of our HF and 6m beam headings

Status	
Rotator Name	RT-21
Operation Mode	ONLINE
Rotator Status	Idle
Current Heading	64.4
Point'n'Shoot	66 Go

Presets

Europe	45°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°
	0°

[Console](#)
[Map](#)
[Setup](#)



Donations from Bruce, K9WBT, Greg, W9GTH, and Fred, K9SO made this possible.

We also have an email forum where official announcements are made. Join the forum at [Groups.IO](https://groups.io/join/megacycle) sign up for that by clicking [HERE](#). All Megacycle participants should join to watch for official announcements and operating status.

Repeater Group



What's Kevin, N9OIG up to? He's been experimenting with something that is signing MORSE CODE letter 'X' on AllStar. Stay tuned for something exciting.

Our Franksville VHF receive site is preparing for winter with the help of Gene, WB9ZKY. This site is 100% solar powered but the batteries need to be kept warm as we only have an unheated shed (provided by WE Energies). Gene keeps the propane tank for the heater topped up every year.

Kevin replaced the batteries there last month so we're good to go for a while longer.

Our western RX site in Walworth is a big help for those of us west of Paddock Lake. Simply input a PL tone of 114.8 into your radio and you'll bring up that UHF receiver instead of the one at the Lakefront. It has good ears.

Repeater users after Happy Hour concludes should know that the Texas groups automatically disconnect at 6:30 local time. W9LKH in Milwaukee automatically disconnects at 6:15

Our three repeaters continue to function flawlessly thanks to behind-the-scenes maintenance by our tech crew Kevin, N9OIG and Robin, WB9COW. It's a constant, on-call duty. Give them a thank you when you catch them on the air.

Member Highlights



Club build projects

We have a couple of club projects thanks to the efforts of Jeff, KC9JOB and Fred, K9SO. The first one, an Allstar “radioless” node, has been built 5 times. One, by N9OIG and KC9JOB was in a different case.

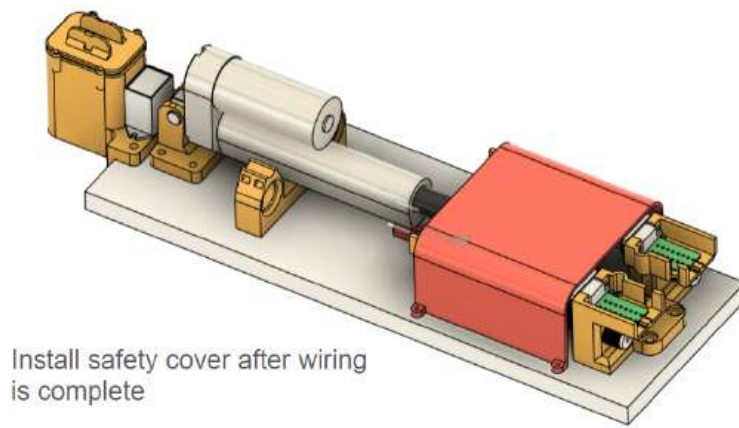
Jeff added a battery pack to the rear of his “fire station” version making it completely portable.



We have a complete bill of materials available. All parts are available

on line. Construction is simple using all 3D printed parts. A lot of members have 3D printing capability and can help you if interested. No soldering or drilling is required and all you need is a screwdriver to build it up.

The next project, the “ultimate” in automatic antenna disconnects, looks complicated but is easily built with only a screwdriver. It only takes a couple of hours to put it together. Four have been built by members and have been performing flawlessly.

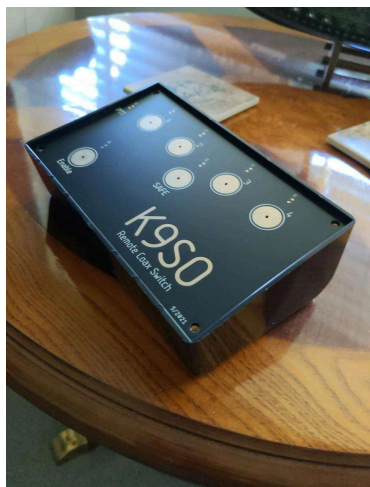


We have put together a club presentation with details on how to build them [HERE](#)

Finally, our next club project currently under way is a 4 port remote antenna switch. Designed for Wisconsin winters, it can select between 4 different antennas up to 200 feet away from the shack and is usable up to 250w at 450MHz and 5KW on HF. This uses a custom PCB (we have extras) and 3D printed case designed for tower leg mounting. Easily customized with your own call sign.



This will be CAT controlled using the touch pad design box:



Anyone interested in participating in these projects, contact Jeff, KC9JOB at his QRZ email address.

Snowed in. Matt, AF9Q shared a picture of a very cold Butternut vertical found in his back yard:



Andy, KD9YTL, shared some aurora pictures he took from home on Nov 19:



Mike, WW9X caught this image from Wind Point a few days earlier:



Lastly, John, AC9OT, captured this one from BONG:



John reported great 6m aurora operations too.

Chris, KC9IJB made a significant donation to the club with his donation of Raspberry Pi 3B and 4B. Many of these have been used in our Megacycle operations and several have been sold.



These include industrial grade SD cards and a professional class housing.

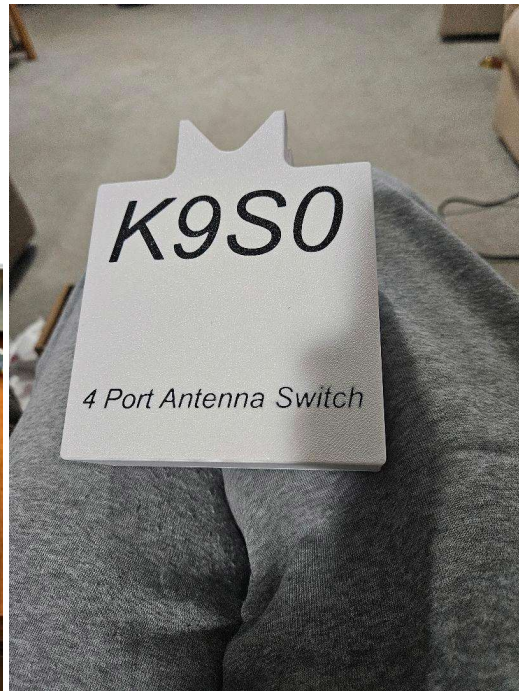
John, N9ZYL, has donated a DX Engineering Hex beam and two Rohn 25G tower sections to the Megacycle club. These will go up in the spring.

Jeff, KC9JOB, bit the bullet and bought a Bambu P1S 3D printer:

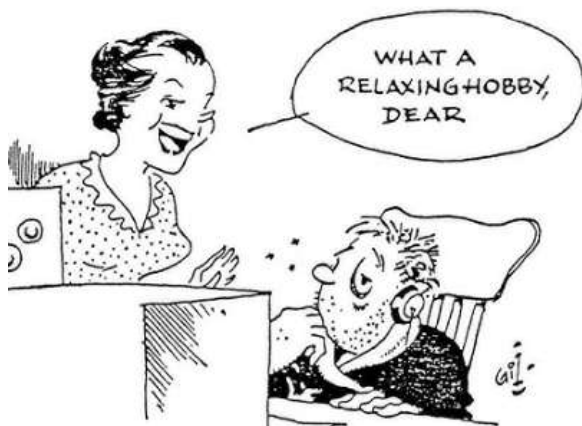


On sale now! \$549

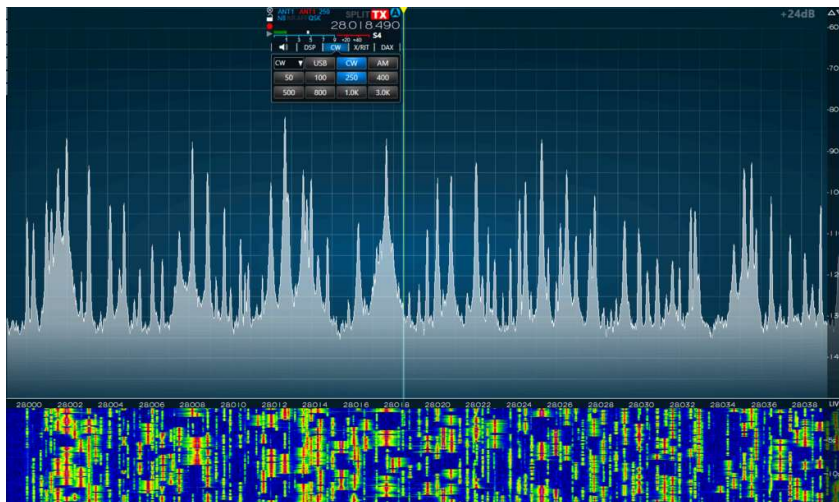
Jeff, KC9JOB, has taken the published CAD files from some of the popular HAMMOND project boxes he and I have used over the years and converted them into printable .stl files. The advantage is that we can now include holes and legends without having to hack them out. Files are available to LRA club members only. Contact Jeff, KC9JOB for details:



Operating Corner



I jumped in on the CQWW CW contest while still digesting my Thanksgiving dinner. Ten meter activity was incredible:



Ever stumble across a contest activity want to jump in for a bit but don't know the exchange? Check it out here: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

Events & Activities



Our Winter club party is scheduled for January 10. Mark your calendars!

This year we won't be collecting any money but rather we'll be gathering at the restaurant where you'll be responsible for your own bill. But signup is still required.

- It will be held at [Birchwood Grill 7515 125th Ave, Bristol, WI 53142](#) on January 10. Go to KR9RK.COM for signup. Festivities begin at 5:00pm sharp.



(photo taken 2024 Christmas party)

Our January quarterly membership meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan 26.

Signups for positions on the Hamfest committee are being taken.

Every Saturday, many members meet at The Meadows Restaurant in Franksville at 8:00am

HAPPY HOUR



New HH logo and 3" sticker

A new Happy Hour logo has been created and stickers are now available for HH forum members for free. Just send a SASE to K9SO at 140 Hunters Pointe Ln, Mooresville, NC 28117 before Christmas. If later, send the SASE to my QRZ address in Wisconsin. Please consider making a small donation to help support this growing international activity. Email me at VP@KR9RK.COM so I can watch for it.

Our Daily “Un-Net” continues to grow. Our “in your face” forum misbehaves and is the best example you’ll ever see on how not to run a real net.

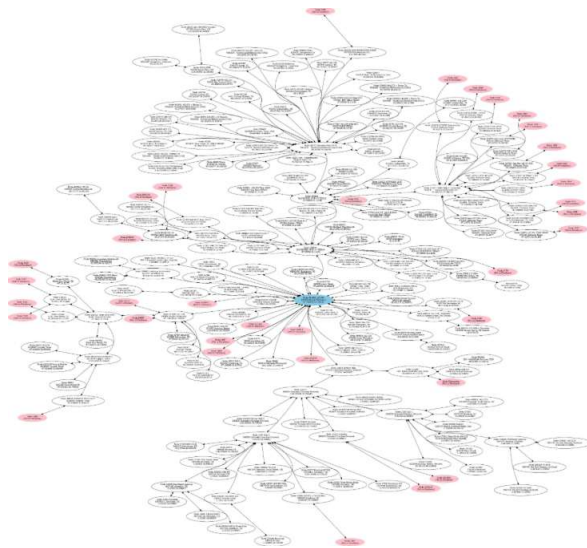
What started off as a joke, the check-in pileup has become our signature event. You have to be persistent to get logged in sometimes as “getting crushed” is common.

We meet daily at 5:00pm local Central Time and typically get 50-60+ participants from all around the world. Join us on the LRA repeaters, the “mighty 513”, W9LKH in Milwaukee, or on our Allstar nodes 511680 and 511681.

WW9X is carrying on the tradition of issuing activity certificates for 100 and 1000 check-ins.



Robin, WB9COW, sent me this more recent “bubble chart” image of the HH checkins:



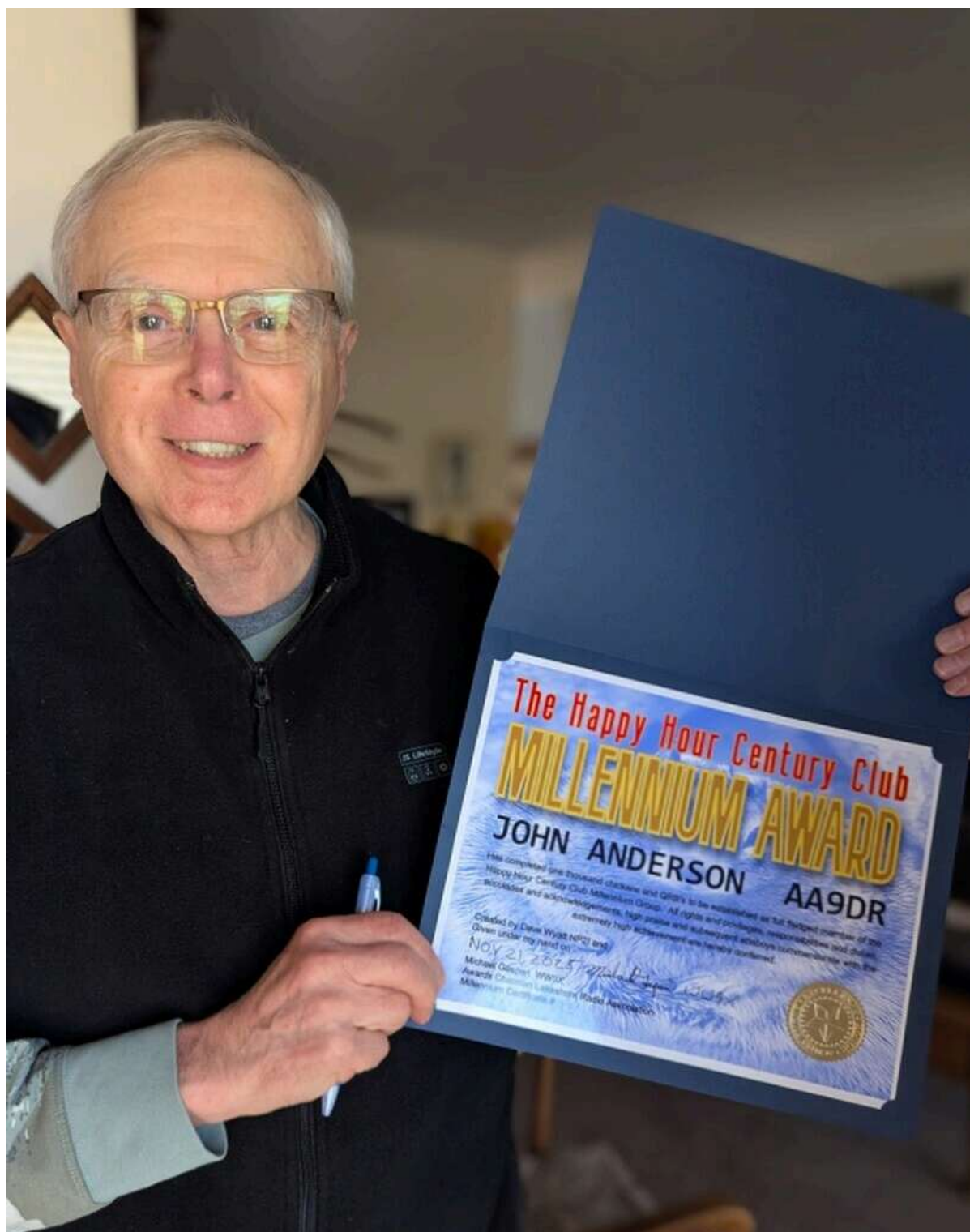
Emil, N9FBF, did a maintenance climb on our big 380 foot tower to replace a tower light last week. He took these fantastic pictures sent to me courtesy of Kevin, N9OIG. Our 2m antenna was slightly out of alignment, but Emil fixed that. What a view!



Our gigantic 8 bay UHF antenna still stands proud with the pattern adjusted inland of course:



John, AA9DR, just qualified for his HH “Millennial” award after logging over 1000 “un-net” checkins. Congratulations John!

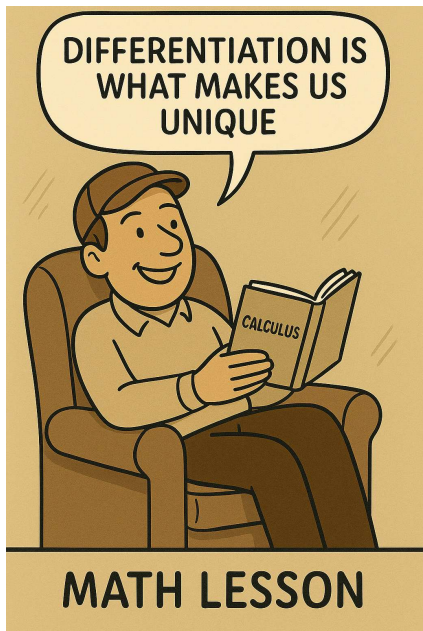


John, AA9DR, proudly displays his new certificate. Mike, WW9X is doing a great job in supporting this.

The Lighter Side



- "Ohm sweet Ohm"
- "Did you hear about the two antennas that got married? The reception was great!"
- "I think, therefore I ham."
- "How does a radio operator send his partner a break-up message? Remorse Code."
- "I speak with frequency."



What you “NEED” Dept.



Bambu's extraordinary P1S is still on sale at Best Buy [HERE](#) for only \$549 INCLUDING THE AMS UNIT. This is over \$200 off the old list price.



It is being replaced by the rumored P2S unit which adds a dehydrator in the AMS. Price TBD.

Ecoflow's 245 w-h power station is on sale for \$179. Up to 300w AC pure sine wave output and great for POTA operations. 10A at 12v too. When not in the field, this LiFePO4 battery station operates as a UPS with 10-15mS transfer times. No more tasks of replacing lead acid batteries as these will last up to 4000 charge cycles and 10 years of operating.

I can personally vouch for these as I own this one and two of the 1000W-H units. (only 27#) Jeff, KC9JOB, also has one of the smaller units now too. Lots of uses.

Some models have 30A Anderson 12v output connectors.



If you want something a lot bigger for your POTA outings, this Dabbsson unit sports 2048 w-h and uses the more modern semi-solid LiFePO4 battery technology and weighs only 41 pounds! It can support a 3000w operation. Compare the weight to the 60+ pounds of ordinary LiFePO4 units of comparable capacity. Just \$479.20 on Amazon this week. It sports a 10mS transfer time if used as a UPS and should last you over ten years. Pure sine wave AC, 100w USB C, and 10A automotive 12v outlet.



The SWAP MEET

Send in your treasured items to the Editor



From the estate of Dave, NP2I:

Astron SS-30M power supply \$100
Gap Titan \$275 SOLD
Icom 756 Pro III \$800
Diamond Antenna GZV4000 power supply \$125
Ameritron AL-1200 (1.5 KW) \$2000
Also, 2- ICOM 2730a dual band transceivers

Contact Pete, K9PJC

My loaded FTDX 3000 is still available: now a new even lower price of only \$600 obo. This is a great world class radio with a spectrum display and waterfall. The receivers in this radio are one of the highest ranked in the world with a DSP that actually works. I have the 80m preselector available too.



Contact Fred, K9SO, at WA9MVZ@Yahoo.com

In-Stock

Free Shipping!

AMERITRON ALS-1306

Linear Amplifier 1200 Watts HF + 6 Meters
Solid State RF Deck - ARI-500 Built In

HRO Discount Price: \$3,998.95*

[Buy It](#)

*After Coupons & Promotions.

X Post

Save

Add To Wish List

\$2700 pre-MFJ. Contact K9SO

LRA donations of \$15 or more get you a Raspberry PI 3B with an 8GB SD card and a cool case. The industrial grade SD cards add to the value of these packaged units. A great value.



contact Rick, KC9UJO, at TREASURER@KR9RK.COM

Current bid on this carefully maintained Megacycle club 5KW generator is only \$100. That's a bargain since this thing has a massive 10HP Briggs & Stratton engine powering it. Contact Rick at TREASURER@KR9RK.COM to place a bid.



Netgear MR1100 cellular modem. \$40.00 LRA members only. Only one remaining out of 4 donated.



Several club members have purchased AT&T SIM cards for these and used them for cellular connection of FlexRadio, RemoteRig boxes, Allstar links, etc. I have a couple of them serving my retro rig and my Allstar box and paid about \$60+ shipping for each. The data-only SIM cards are available for about \$50/year. Yes, per YEAR.

Although unlocked, they are intended for AT&T.

USB-C cable for charging not included

Fan dipole with large PVC spreaders. I have no idea what bands this is for, but at least one of them has loading coils to shorten it. 12 or 14 AWG solid wire. Looks like 3 bands. Since this was for Field Day, I'm guessing 80/40/20m. You could customize it of course. Looks nicely done. \$25



3 element MFJ-1763 portable 2m beam. Good condition and looks unused. Might make a nice fox hunt antenna: \$45. These sold for \$89.95 when they were available new. Contact Rick.



The Megacycle trailer is up for bidding too. The current bid is \$1000. Measures 8 x 4.5 feet inside (approx). Tires look brand new and no dents. Excellent condition. Missing wheel on tongue jack, but that's a \$20 part. Someone added a very sturdy-looking homebrew roof rack that looks like it might have been used to transport tower sections, ladders, etc. The cross pipes would be a great place to mount mobile antennas making this a perfect POTA-mobile.

2,203 pound (999Kg) cargo rating, single axle. Interior light.



Again, contact Rick at TREASURER@KR9RK.COM to place a bid.

Final Thoughts



Club participation continues to grow, but so do our costs. Please consider a small donation by clicking on the donate button at KR9RK.COM.

Also, with membership renewals coming up, consider upgrading to a 5 year membership.

This newsletter is only as good as the information you submit. Send me your activities and pictures to share in all the fun you're having with Ham Radio activities.

73,

Fred

K9SO, VP Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc
Dba Lakeshore Radio Association

ADDENDA

Help Pass the Bill!

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

Whether you are an ARRL member or not, every amateur radio operator should participate this grassroots campaign to protect amateur radio rights, specifically to eliminate HOA prohibitions, in this case.

They've made it simple – For licensed amateurs, scan the QR code below, or visit the associated website, enter your call sign, confirm your information, and submit! This will generate a letter to your US Senators and your Congressional Representative on your behalf. Our lobbyists will hand deliver these letters at the appropriate time. It literally takes 30 seconds of your time.



<https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>

**** NOTE: This is for individuals only. Clubs and ARES organizations should submit the club letter with the template provided ****

For more detailed information on this, visit: <https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation>

For clubs: <https://send-a-letter.org/club>

This newsletter is authorized by the Secretary of the LRA. Fred, K9SO is the editor. You may contact him at VP@KR9RK.COM