

Lakeshore Radio Association



January 2026 Newsletter

Member Statistics:
Active Members: 135

New Members: (Last 30 Days)
Robert A Bentson KR9B: Joined 2025-12-09
Dino I Laurenzi KE9EIL: Joined 2025-12-12
JANET B BEGERT KI5SSR: Joined 2025-12-29

34 memberships have not renewed as of
12/31/2025. See list in appendix. Please
consider your continued support.

Table of Contents

- From the Board
- Megacycle group updates
- Repeater group updates
- Member Highlights
- Operating Corner
- Events & Activities
- Happy Hour
- The Lighter Side
- Swap meet
- Final Thoughts

From the Board



- **“Christmas” party January 10. Signup is required [HERE](#) at KR9RK.COM**
 - We are not collecting any money for this event, but signup is still required.
 - Bring a “white elephant” gift if you’d like to participate.
 - Live Happy Hour un-net moderator on site
 - Auctions of donated equipment
 - Happy Hour and membership stickers

We will see you at 5:00pm at:

Birchwood Grill 7515 125th Ave, Bristol, WI 53142

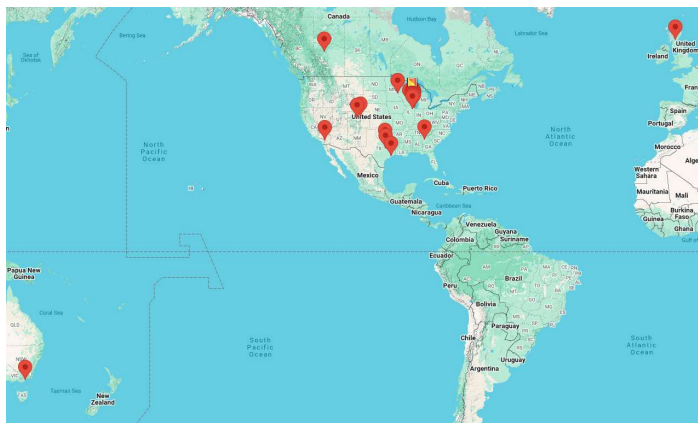
- Our new Hamfest, now called the LRA HAM RADIO EXPERIENCE, will be on August 8, 2026 at the Kennel club
-

Discussion of ideas and proposed changes to the old Megacycle format will be discussed at the January 27, 2026 quarterly membership meeting.

- Our club trailer has a new home in the barn at Q-SO Qorners. Some nice pre-made antennas, feedline, and field day equipment is for sale. See appendix.
- The board clarified rules regarding International checkins to Happy hour and Megacycle radios.
 - All licensed amateur radio operators may legally check in to the Happy Hour Un-net from anywhere in the world and operate our repeaters via Allstar and/or Echolink (or any other access mode)
 - All operators of the club’s Megacycle radios must have a US ham radio license (reciprocal operating agreements do not apply to remote operations of US based stations)

- An amendment to the bylaws will be presented to the membership creating a new Trustee for the callsign N9UDU (old Racine Megacycle club). Similar to the current Trustee and Technical Director positions, this position will be appointed by the LRA elected officers and will have full board voting rights.
- The board wishes everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year as we begin our 51st year as LRA (with Megacycle roots going back to 1947).
- A reminder to all that our official legal name remains Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc. (not L.L.C.) and that name must be used on all legal documents. On a daily basis however, we will be calling ourselves the Lakeshore Radio Association which is a d/b/a name, not a legal one. This is in recognition of our merger with the Racine Megacycle Club.
- The board is working on ways to bring in person and online amateur radio testing under the LRA umbrella.
- Don't forget to renew your club membership online at KR9RK.COM. Over 34 past 2025 memberships have expired as of 12/31/2025 and have not been renewed as of this writing. LRA membership is required for Megacycle group participation.

Updated membership map



Megacycle Group



Thanks to our “cracker-jack response crew” of K9WNG, AF9Q, and N9OIG, an obscure anomaly in FT-8 operation was discovered and corrected. FT-8 operation is now better than ever.

Daryl, VK3AWA, has been making FreeDV contacts regularly (a digital voice mode becoming popular on HF). Daryl has a new US callsign and posted this audio snippet of a QSO: [VK3AWA](#)

Ongoing discussions regarding the addition of a VHF or UHF transverter to one of the radios. Comments?

Radio auto-shutoff timers have been extended to two hours allowing for longer operation. Don't forget to turn off the radios if you have ended your operating. This is now more important than ever.

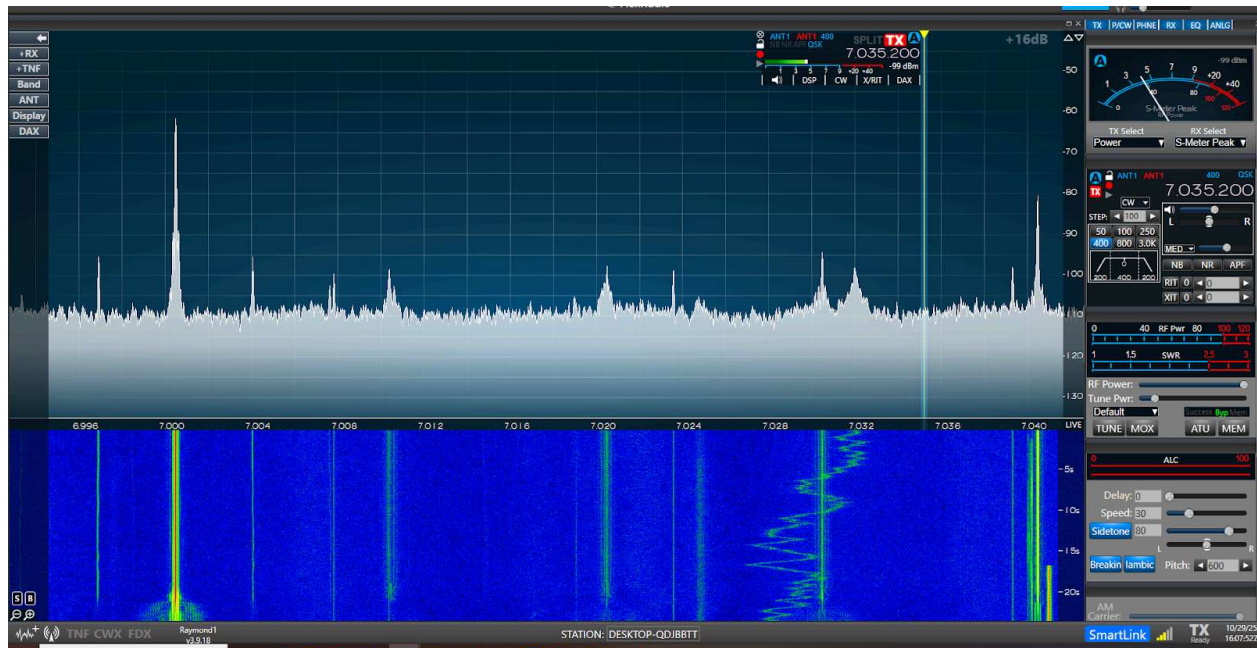
The MORCONI connection at the NC site has been eliminated. Antenna disconnect is now automatically controlled by the PI-PI link between NC and Raymond. The old “6 second” antenna connection delay is now gone.

Per the terms of our lease agreement, we are required to install a watt-hour meter on our remote equipment at Raymond. This has been done thanks to the efforts of Greg, W9GTH and monthly reporting is now automatic. November and December costs were about \$10 and \$12 respectively.

How to Join and operate the station

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

Click [HERE](#) to view.



Status:

3 radios at 2 locations are operational.

A 4th antenna, a 40m dipole up 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 and installed a new Green Heron RT-21 rotor controller giving us full remote control of our HF and 6m beam headings on tower 1. Access is via ROTOR1.KR9RK.COM pasted in your URL after VPN login.

A new DX Engineering "Spider" HF beam will be installed on tower # 2 in the spring thanks to a donation from John, N9ZYL (beam and two tower sections)

Update VPN credentials: please edit your VPN credentials as shown below. Edit only the "AllowedIP" section. This eliminates some strange configurations. (Thanks, Brad, K9WNG):

[Interface]

PrivateKey = DO NOT CHANGE

Address = DO NOT CHANGE

DNS = DO NOT CHANGE

[Peer]

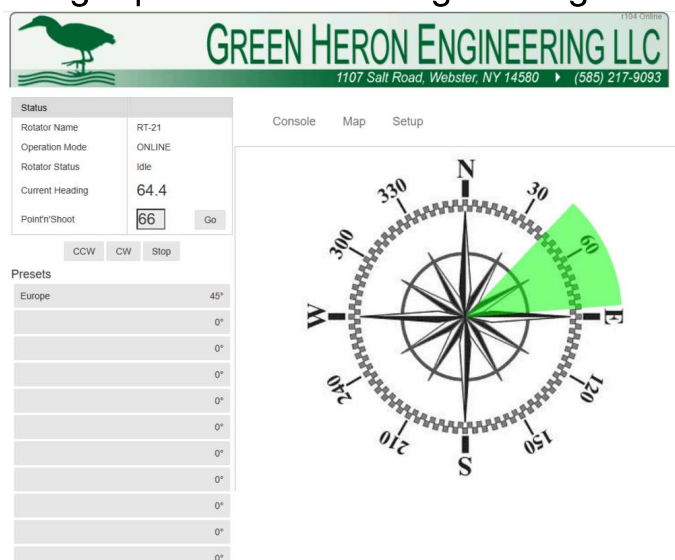
PublicKey = DO NOT CHANGE

AllowedIPs = 172.20.10.0/24, 172.20.12.0/24, 135.134.35.136/32

Endpoint = DO NOT CHANGE

Rick, KC9UJO reported all outdoor things look good at the Raymond site during a very chilly (10 degrees / 50 knot winds) site inspection last week. He reported that the GAP antenna guying needs to be beefed up.

Our new remotely operated rotor controller is now on line. Just drag the green triangle around or enter a "Point n' Shoot" heading. Some latency is being reported and is being investigated.



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

Join the forum at [Groups.IO](#) sign up by clicking [HERE](#). All participants should join to watch for official announcements.

Repeater Group



Our technical director, Kevin, N9OIG, added some fun reset tones on the repeaters for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

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 his trusty sidekick Robin, WB9COW.

Member Highlights



A note from Daryl, VK3AWA (KO6LQQ)
Seasons Greetings,

I just thought I would report that all three stations work very well from my home shack here in Paradise Beach Australia. The latency is minimal and I have the occasional internet stutter which is minimal.

Yesterday, I configured for FT8 operation using the notes provided by K9RZL and had several FT8 contacts.

73 Daryl KO6LQQ (VK3AWA) And soon to be, KK9AWA

Ryland, WW4GA offered some advice regarding microphones and PTT control when operating remotely:

I use the Lynovation CTR2-Dial (with CTR2-MIDI software loaded since MIDI version was announced after I purchased) on my Mac iBook for PTT

If you are using SmartSDR for Mac from Marcus you can use his onscreen PTT as well

I am very happy with the Lynovation and their support

I use the iBook mic or a USB mic and I have had no on air complaints

*Ryland
WW4GA*

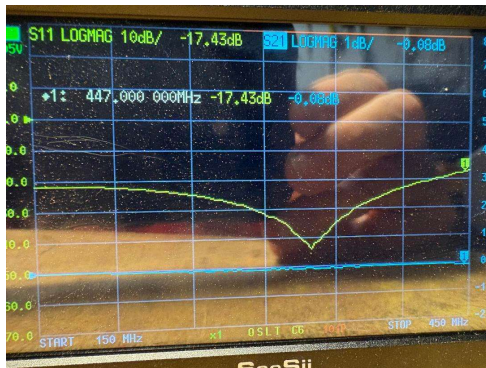
Live in an HOA? Bill, KD1Z found this interesting video on YouTube:

Click [HERE](#) to view

Chris, KC9IJB donated a number of Raspberry Pi 3B's in great little cases and with an SD card included. For sale only to members in the appendix.



My new remote switch, designed by me and built with KC9JOB's huge help of course, is using inexpensive relays. It looks good all the way up to 450 MHz. This return loss curve shows >20dB return loss up to the UHF band. Insertion loss at 457 MHz was only 0.08 dB! I started this project because the state of the art for remote relay boxes is currently only up through 6m without using coaxial relays. This is an incredible breakthrough result.

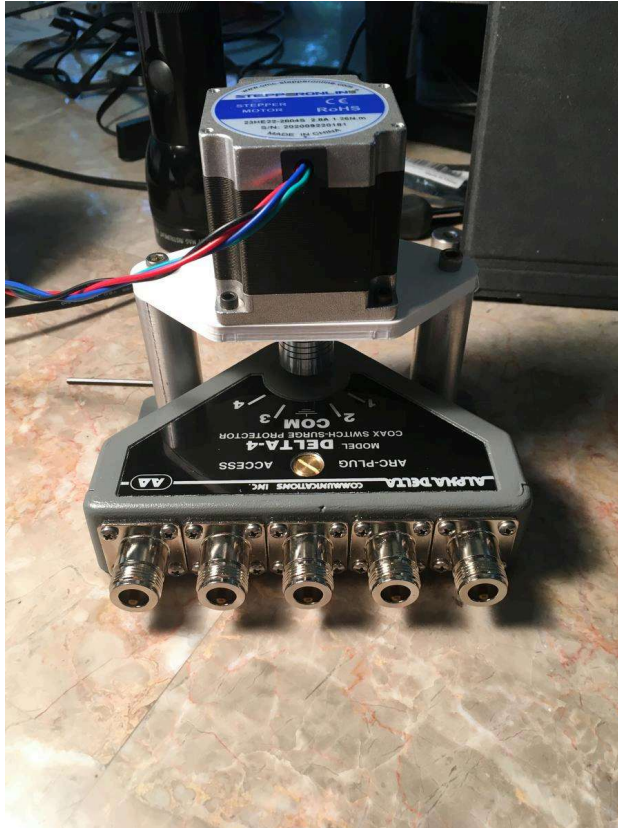


I discovered these new high voltage relays and immediately recognized that they would make great RF switches too. I was right. Designed for outdoor mounting, the box will be controlled by our “touch” controller which will be re-configured to read FlexRadio band data for automated control.





My previous solution, still in service, was a bit more complicated:








K9SO Presentation to Maricopa (County, Az) Amateur Radio Club

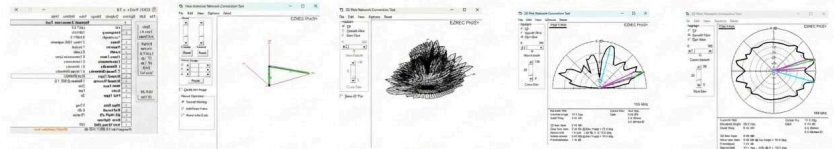
Per request, I will be making a 1-hour presentation to MARA via ZOOM tomorrow morning on EZNEC antenna modeling software. 1/3/2026 11:00am ET. You may view a copy of the presentation [HERE](#). You may also listen in live here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88516876319> Meeting ID: 885 1687 6319

What is EZNEC?


EZNEC is a free antenna modeling program.




-  **User-friendly graphical interface** for the Numerical Electromagnetics Code (NEC) simulation engine.
-  **Design, analyze, and visualize** antenna performance (radiation patterns, feedpoint impedance, SWR, gain).
-  **Free to the public** since early 2022 (previously commercial).
-  Supports advanced engines like NEC-2, NEC-4.2, and NEC-5 for complex tasks.




EZNEC debunks antenna myths and gives you insights into what really matters



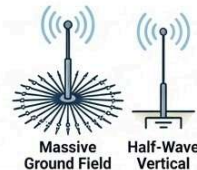
Myth: "Higher is always better."
The Reality: While height often helps for long-distance (DX), EZNEC shows that for Near Vertical Incidental Skywave (NVIS) work—talking to people just a few hundred miles away—mounting an antenna **too high** can actually cause the signal to "overshoot" your target.



Myth: "Bigger antennas always have more gain."
The Reality: Gain is not about total power; it is about where that power is focused. EZNEC can prove that a smaller, well-designed Yagi antenna can outperform a much larger wire antenna by focusing the signal into a narrow, useful beam.



Myth: "Vertical antennas always need massive ground fields."
The Reality: While ground-mounted verticals need radials, EZNEC can demonstrate that a half-wave vertical often works efficiently with almost no ground field at all. It helps you find the "sweet spot" where adding more radials stops providing a noticeable benefit.



Rick, KC9UJO, built his own repeater for his personal “local” use. Chris, KC9IJB, donated some batteries to the cause and Rick made his own 40 A-H UPS out of them. Nice work Rick!



Get the lead (acid) out:

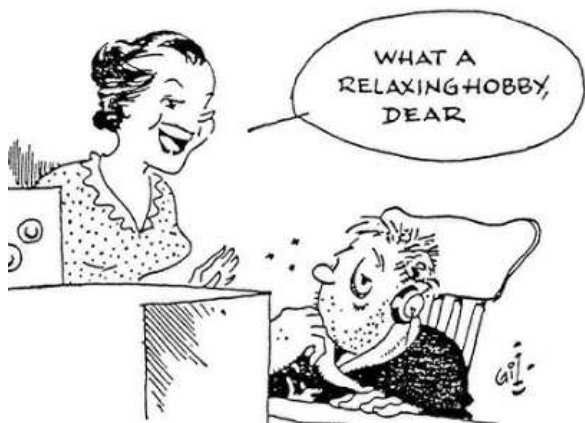
I was able to test my new “whole house” UPS this morning when Duke Power turned off the power to my house for repair work in the neighborhood. Except for the text notifications these devices sent to me, I couldn't even tell I lost power. Not even a light flicker.

Rather than one large, very expensive generator set, I decided to break down the backup into smaller 1 KW-HR and 2KW-HR units scattered about the house. I bought 6 of these at a big discount on Black Friday and spread them around at critical locations. More than just for networking, I included refrigerators and TVs. They give me nearly 48 hours of emergency backup for almost everything in the house I use except A/C.

During a longer outage, I can recharge two at a time in about 2 hours from a 5kw Dual Fuel generator in the garage or one at a time from a direct alternator connection in my car in 3 hours. They're light enough to move around where needed too without stringing power cords around the house. 10 hour solar charging on a clear day.

10mS true UPS transfer time and 10 year LiFePO4 batteries too.





see ContestCalendar.com for details

ARRL RTTY Roundup Jan 3

North America QSO party Jan 17-18 SSB

VHF/UHF FT-8 activity contest Jan 21

Winter Field Day Jan 24

Events & Activities



Our Winter club party is scheduled for January 10. Mark your calendars! Signup required at KR9RK.COM



(photo taken 2024 Christmas party)

Our January quarterly membership meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan 27 6:30pm at the YMCA.

Signups for positions on the Hamfest committee are being taken.

Every Saturday, many members meet at The Meadows Restaurant in Franksville at 8:00am for an unofficial gathering.

QSLs are rolling in from our K5O activity earlier this year:

A screenshot of a QSL card for R2FAQ. The card features a background image of a hand holding a sword. The text on the card includes:

R2FAQ GREETINGS FROM KALININGRAD
 Op: Andy V. Shadrin
 QTH: Kaliningrad Russia
 Grid: KO04
 CQ: 15
 ITU: 29
 DA: KA-02

R2FAQ
 GRIDSQUARE KO04

TO RADIO
 YOUR - SIGNAL
 RECEIVED AT ON
 WERE RST Windom CW 801000

REMARKS
 MR(♂) OPERATOR
 THANKS FOR THE EXCHANGE.
 HOPING FOR MORE CONTACTS IN THE FUTURE.
 ANDREY V. SHADRIN - R2FAQ

TNX QSL3

HAPPY HOUR



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.

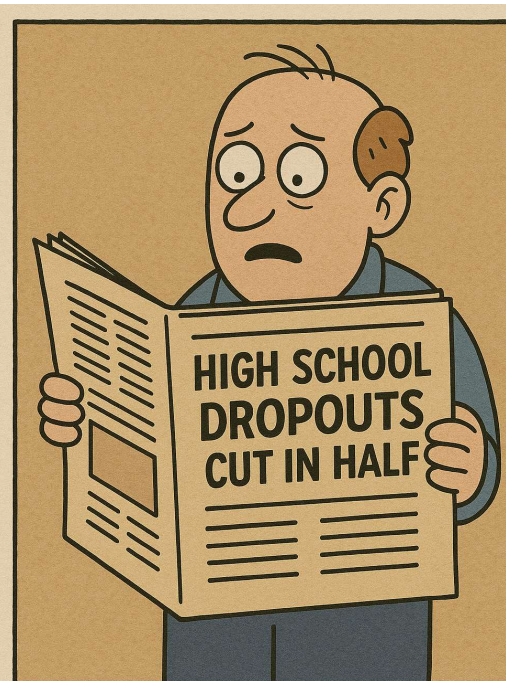


The Lighter Side



**YOU HAVE TO BE ODD TO
BE NUMBER ONE.
-DR. SEUSS**

HAPPY HOUR PILEUP



A terrible massacre?



When your nest egg
hatches into
Grandchildren



What you “NEED” Dept.



Bambu's extraordinary P1S is 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.

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: new low price of only \$700



Contact Fred, K9SO, at WA9MVZ@Yahoo.com

LRA donations of \$15 or more get you a Raspberry Pi 3B. The industrial grade SD cards add to the value of these packaged units (the 4's are even fan cooled). A great value.



contact Rick, KC9UJO, at TREASURER@KR9RK.COM

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

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>

Updated 1/1/2026

Memberships Expiring 12/31/2025:

Tara D Black KD8HPH: Expiring 2025-12-31
Benjamin R Black N8YAD: Expiring 2025-12-31
NICHOLAS F DI DOMENICO WB9MXX: Expiring 2025-12-31
BILL F ERDMANN KD1Z: Expiring 2025-12-31
WARREN D MIEDEMA AB1Z: Expiring 2025-12-31
Kathleen M Miedema K9KDR: Expiring 2025-12-31
KEITH R STORRS K9RXG: Expiring 2025-12-31
Peter J Walter W9PJW: Expiring 2025-12-31
KRISTIN L WASLEY KW9X: Expiring 2025-12-31
Craig O Talley KD9UQE: Expiring 2025-12-31
Michael W Geitner K9MWG: Expiring 2025-12-31
DONALD H HAWES WD9EFT: Expiring 2025-12-31
Angelo E Franzone KD9QVW: Expiring 2025-12-31
WILLIAM C KNUDSEN WB9NYI: Expiring 2025-12-31
Robert C Francour K9TAX: Expiring 2025-12-31
Jennifer L Arnheim K9UET: Expiring 2025-12-31
Thomas J Ogrady Jr KD9WAN: Expiring 2025-12-31
Steven F Mrkvicka Sr KC9FSV: Expiring 2025-12-31
Richard A Schaber KB9SIG: Expiring 2025-12-31
Michael S Cinpinski N9MSC: Expiring 2025-12-31
Daniel H Kundert WX9EMS: Expiring 2025-12-31
Richard R Gordon N9XI: Expiring 2025-12-31
Joseph P Jackson KD9SVW: Expiring 2025-12-31
DANNY J CERMINARA N9XCK: Expiring 2025-12-31
KEITH A BELONGIA W9NFL: Expiring 2025-12-31
MARSHAL D DOLGIN KB9G: Expiring 2025-12-31
Michael R Lea W9MRL: Expiring 2025-12-31
Christopher R Bork KC9MKL: Expiring 2025-12-31
Kevin Olszewski KE9AQT: Expiring 2025-12-31
James R Griffin K9JRG: Expiring 2025-12-31
DAVID MCCLURE N3DMC: Expiring 2025-12-31
REES W ROBERTS K9UUT: Expiring 2025-12-31
Nashan J Seifert KC9ZKJ: Expiring 2025-12-31
JOHN E MELCHER N9ZYL: Expiring 2025-12-31

Members with Invalid E-Mail Addresses:

DONALD H HAWES WD9EFT: dhawes1@wi.rr.com

