

Lakeshore Radio Association



February 2026 Newsletter

Member Statistics:

Active Members: 119

1 Year Family Membership : 1

1 Year Membership: 48

5 Year Family Membership: 3

5 Year Membership: 64

Lifetime - Honorary Membership: 3

Total: 119

New Members: (Last 30 Days)

Greg A Wahl K9BPW: Joined 2026-01-06

TERENCE N TALADY KA9SXH: Joined
2026-01-06

Ronald K Painter AF9P: Joined 2026-01-09

Jay Muraszewski KE9EMX: Joined 2026-01-18

Shaun Deane W1SCD: Joined 2026-01-28

Table of Contents

- From the Board
- Officer's comments
- Megacycle group updates
- Repeater group updates
- Member Highlights
- Operating Corner
- Events & Activities
- Happy Hour
- The Lighter Side
- Swap meet

From the Board



News:

- The sale of the trailer inherited from the Megacycle club was approved by the board in the amount of \$1000. Proceeds went into the Megacycle group equipment fund.
- An amendment to the bylaws was passed by the membership at the general meeting last month creating a new Trustee for the callsign W9UDU (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.
- Applicants wishing to apply for the new board position should apply by contacting Matt at SECRETARY@KR9RK.COM. This position will be appointed at the next regular board meeting.
- 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.

Officer's Comments



President Dwayne, N9PYA

WOW! What an incredible year of projects and growth for our organization! Over the past three years, LRA has evolved from a repeater club into a full-fledged amateur radio club. We've grown from a local presence to an international one, with a significant boost coming from the HAPPY HOUR Un-net. Our organization has also proudly welcomed the Megacycle Club and, more recently, the Racine Testing Group into our association. None of this progress would be possible without the outstanding dedication of our volunteers and the generous monetary donations we've received. These contributions are not only essential to our continued positive growth, but they also speak volumes about the strength and commitment of our community. While I would love to recognize some of this year's standout contributors by name, I'll save that for our Christmas party. That said, whether you joined as a member, supported us through donations, or gave your time as a volunteer, your positive impact is clearly being felt and truly appreciated.

In closing, on behalf of the LRA Board—Fred K9SO, Vice President; Matt AF9Q, Secretary; Rick KD9UJO, Treasurer; Kevin N9OIG, Technical Director; Robin WB9COW / KR9RK Trustee; we wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Regards & 73's,

Dwayne Devore (N9PYA)

Secretary Matt, AF9Q:

The club currently has **119 members**, and we extend a sincere thank-you to everyone who renewed their membership—your continued support keeps the LRA strong. We also had a great membership meeting in January, and we appreciate all who attended. At that meeting, a bylaws amendment was **unanimously approved** by the members present. This amendment creates a new position on the LRA Board for the **Trustee of the LRA HF call sign W9UDU**. The approved amendment and bylaws information are available at

<https://www.kr9rk.com/lra-bylaws/>.

Looking ahead to elections: at every **October meeting**, members vote on candidates who volunteer for open board positions. This year, the positions of **President** and **Treasurer** are open for re-election. Official nominations should be submitted to secretary@kr9rk.com before the **July meeting** and will be presented to the membership at that meeting. Board positions open for re-election **next year** are **Secretary** and **Vice President**. Details of eligibility for open board positions are included in **Article 4 of the LRA Bylaws**, available at <https://www.kr9rk.com/lra-bylaws/>.

Thank you.

Treasurer, Rick, KC9UJO

A strong quarter delivered by the club and its members. Both the General Treasury and the Megacycle Business delivered strong results through annual dues, subscription services, product sales and donations. The club delivered on the 2025 Northstar Project goals. By completing these goals, ahead of expectation, has not only provided a functional HF Radio model but has also delivered results through renewed interest in the Lakeshore Radio Association as a whole. We have seen an increase of 5 years subscriptions, members from other states and countries as well as outside local organizations taking an interest in LRA and supporting the efforts through equipment donations as well as "In Kind" donations via collaborative labor efforts. While this is certainly a successful quarter we must also realize there will, like last quarter, be periods of operating loss so it is good that the club is in a healthy condition in its members and its financial position to absorb negative growth or unexpected emergencies like large equipment failures.

Thanks Rick

Vice President, Fred, K9SO

I am so proud to be a part of this organization. We've had a great year with the start of the Megacycle group. Its growth over such a short period of time has been phenomenal due to the strong support of our membership. I first proposed the activity as "Project North Star" only one year ago and it has already become an exciting part of LRA.

This year, as I introduced at the January membership meeting, one of this year's opportunities is to add some excitement to the August 8 hamfest we inherited from the Megacycle club merger. I have proposed that our members display their favorite aspects of Ham Radio and mentor attendees in an event I have dubbed "The LRA HAM RADIO EXPERIENCE". There is so much going on in the Ham Radio space these days, it can feel like drinking from a fire hose. Check out the complete proposal in the sections below.

Mentors in this hobby are needed now more than ever.

73, Fred

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 active and already has more than 20 countries worked from our stations. He 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)

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

Joe, N9JOS has purchased a new FlexRadio and is in the process of putting up a new 60' tower just a few hundred feet away from our current Megacycle operating location. This station will join our network with a big HF beam at the top in the summer.

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



Of course, the highlight of the season was our Christmas party. Thanks to innovations and relocations implemented by our **Events Director Kevin, KB9LLV** the party had nearly 50 revellers. A great time was had by all!

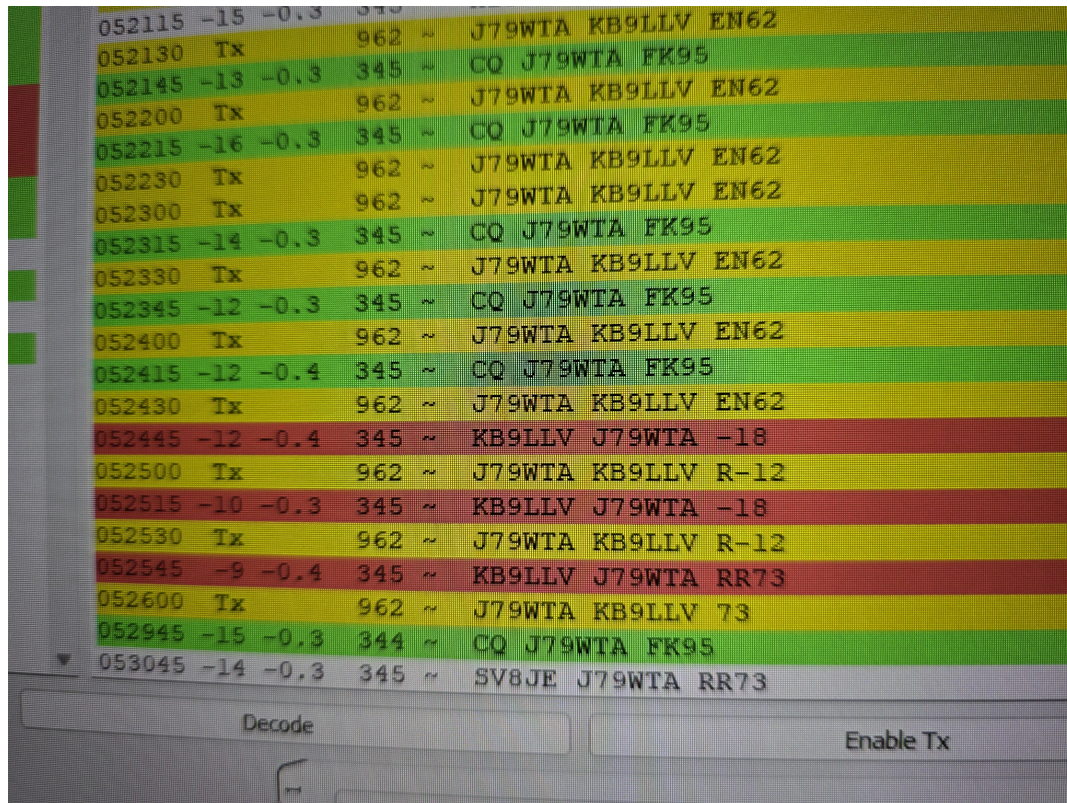




More pictures are on our Facebook page. Check it out!

Kevin, KB9LLV also reports his first QSO on 160m:

On 2/1/2026 I made a 160 meter ft8 contact with J79WTA on the island of Dominica. It took almost 15 minutes to work the station. Contact was made with a Yaesu ft 891 at 50 watts and a 37 ft homemade vertical 160 meter antenna.



A screenshot of a radio log interface, likely from a software-defined radio (SDR) application. The log displays a list of contacts with columns for time, frequency, mode, power, and call signs. The background of the log is color-coded in alternating green and yellow rows. At the bottom of the log, there are two buttons: 'Decode' and 'Enable Tx'.

Time	Freq	Mode	Power	Call Sign
052115	-15 -0.3	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV EN62
052130	Tx	962	~	CQ J79WTA FK95
052145	-13 -0.3	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV EN62
052200	Tx	962	~	CQ J79WTA FK95
052215	-16 -0.3	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV EN62
052230	Tx	962	~	J79WTA KB9LLV EN62
052300	Tx	962	~	CQ J79WTA FK95
052315	-14 -0.3	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV EN62
052330	Tx	962	~	CQ J79WTA FK95
052345	-12 -0.3	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV EN62
052400	Tx	962	~	CQ J79WTA FK95
052415	-12 -0.4	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV EN62
052430	Tx	962	~	KB9LLV J79WTA -18
052445	-12 -0.4	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV R-12
052500	Tx	962	~	KB9LLV J79WTA -18
052515	-10 -0.3	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV R-12
052530	Tx	962	~	KB9LLV J79WTA RR73
052545	-9 -0.4	345	~	J79WTA KB9LLV 73
052600	Tx	962	~	CQ J79WTA FK95
052945	-15 -0.3	344	~	SV8JE J79WTA RR73

QSOs on 160m are no small feat due to the size of the required antennas.
Congratulations Kevin!

Live in an HOA? Bill, KD1Z found this interesting video on YouTube:
Click [HERE](#) to view

Chris, KC9IJB donated even more Raspberry Pi 3s and 4s to the Megacycle equipment fund. These sold out rapidly at the Christmas party and January meeting. Thanks again Chris!








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

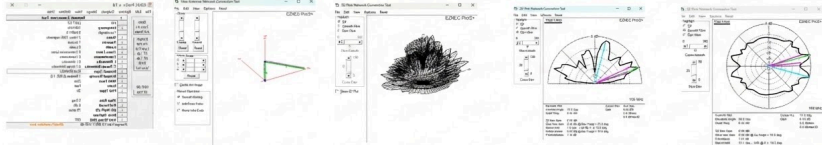
I made a presentation early last month to MARA via ZOOM on EZNEC antenna modeling software. You may view a copy of the presentation

What is EZNEC?

EZNEC is a free antenna modeling program.

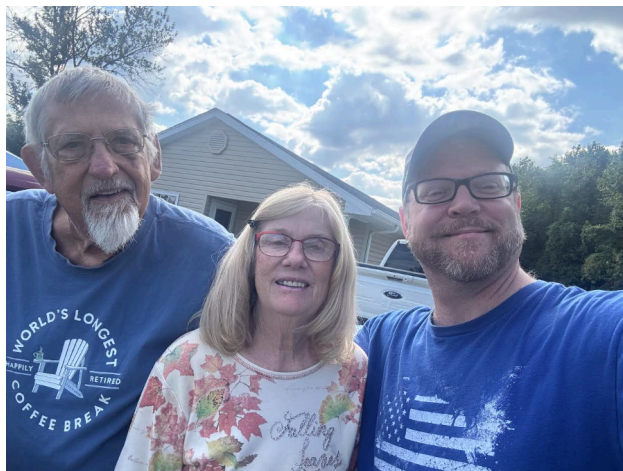


-  **User-friendly graphical interface** for the Numerical Electromagnetics Code (NEC) simulation engine.
-  **Design, analyze, and visualize** antenna performance (radiation patterns, feedpoint impedance, SWR, gain).
-  **Free to the public** since early 2022 (previously commercial).
-  Supports advanced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



[HERE.](#)

We regret to announce the passing of one of our earliest out of state Happy Hour supporters **Don, N0EBB**. Don was not an LRA member but had just reached the 400 “chickin” mark. Bruce, K9WBT, on a trip through St. Louis, got to meet with him and his wife last year. Don’s daily Happy Thought will be missed.



John, N9ZYL, posted this picture of his truck parked underneath the work vehicle he operates every day:

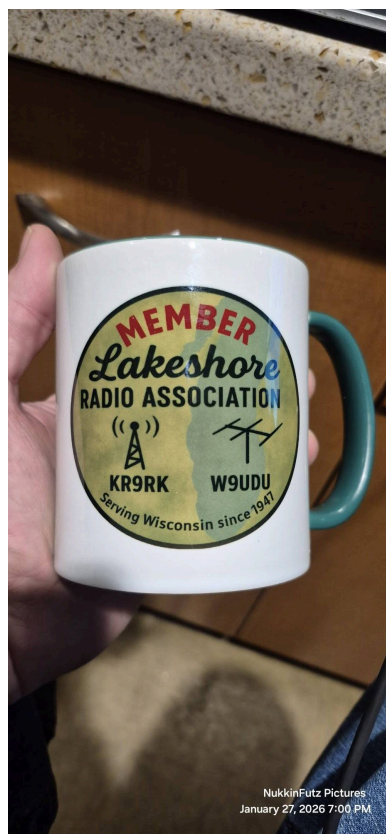


Fred, K9SO, designed and donated 60 new vinyl weatherproof Happy Hour stickers and 60 new member stickers. These all sold well at the Christmas party. A few are still left (\$10 for 3). Contact me at VP@KR9RK.COM. I also donated stickers for the "MEMBER" logo I designed for the club last year. This design (shown on the mug shot below) has been accepted as the official LRA logo.



The logos have been transferred to coffee mugs now on sale courtesy of **Tom, KD6KHK**. Thank you Tom! These are wonderful! Contact Tom directly if you want one with your callsign on it. The stickers and mugs will be

available for purchase at all future LRA events as a fundraiser:



Mike, WW9X, was presented his **HAPPY HOUR MILLENNIAL** award certificate by Bernie, N9AZA. Congratulations Mike! These certificates are earned after 1000 HH check-ins:



Get the lead (acid) out:

I was able to test my new distributed home backup system here in NC last month during the power outages that resulted from the ice and snow storms. We had some pretty miserable weather here in Mooresville in January. A bad Ice storm followed by 8" of snow the following week. These were the worst winter storms here in a generation.



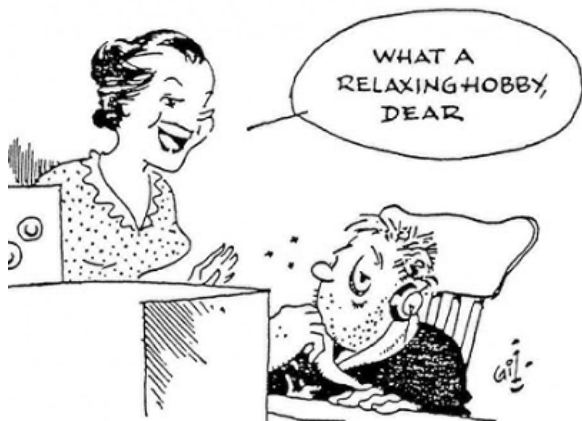
OMG! My StarLink Terminal has arrived!

This terminal was “starcrossed”. It shipped via FedEx from Ft. Worth, Texas on the day of the big ice storm there. It finally arrived in Charlotte on the day of the big snowstorm here. It was in transit for almost two weeks. I’ll report my experiences next month.



Before all the bad weather hit down here, I was able to take the boat out on New Year's Day when the temperature hit 75 degrees. I have to work on my selfie aim though:





see ContestCalendar.com for details

VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest: 1700Z-2100Z, Feb 4

Geographic Focus:	Europe
Participation:	Europe
Mode:	FT8/4
Bands:	144 MHz
Classes:	Single Op (Low/High)
Max power:	HP: >LP limit LP: 2m: 100 watts, 70cm: 75 watts, 23cm: 10 watts
Exchange:	4-character grid square
QSO Points:	1 point per unique call sign
Multipliers:	Each grid square
Score Calculation:	Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by:	2359Z February 9, 2026
E-mail logs to:	(none)
Upload log at:	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/upload-log
Mail logs to:	(none)
Find rules at:	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/



Don't miss the WIQP Wisconsin QSO Party coming up. Represent your club!
March 15, 2026 - 1800Z to 0100Z March 16 (1:00PM CDT to 8:00PM

Events & Activities



Our next scheduled event is the “Taste of Field Day” to be held once again at Bong State Park. This is the 4th year of this family-fun event. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 27th noon-5:00pm.

Contact event director Kevin at EVENTS@KR9RK.COM



LRA HAMFEST AUGUST 8, 2026



Lots of volunteers are needed to pull this off. We're starting small but we have big ideas. Of course we do. We're LRA!

The Hamfest, renamed "The LRA Ham Radio Experience", will showcase many different aspects of Ham Radio for visitors. Check out the presentation [LINK HERE](#)

LRA's Summer Picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 1. Contact Kevin, KB9LLV for details.



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

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

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

R2FAQ
 GRIDSQUARE KO04

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

REMARKS	UTC	MHz	Mode	RST
MR(s) 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.

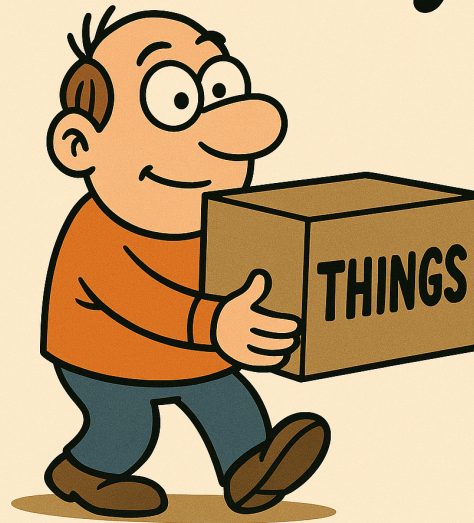


The Lighter Side



**Our customer reps are
standing by to assist you.**

Taking things literally





**Behind every ham, there's
an XYL rolling her eyes.**



HAMCLOCKs TO STOP WORKING



Greg, W9GTH, reports that all Hamclocks currently in operation will cease to function in June, 2026 when the server will be taken off line.

It remains to be seen what if anything will be done to continue this project. (More information here:

<https://qso365.co.uk/2026/01/the-end-of-hamclock/>).

Meanwhile, Greg found this promising alternative:

<https://github.com/accius/openhamclock>

What you “NEED” Dept.



Jeff, KC9JOB has donated his Ender-3 printer to the club. Over the years, Jeff, a highly qualified mechanical engineer, has added dozens of improvements of his own design to this machine. This will be sold to the highest bidder. For someone looking to get into 3D printing, this would be a bargain at any price.

Ender-3

Classic DIY 3D Printer Best-Value-for-Money

Ender-3 has been a global bestseller since its release in 2017.

As a top pick-up 3D printer, Ender-3 has achieved a total shipment of 800,000 pieces.



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

\$800Diamond 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

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>

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