

Lakeshore Radio Association



March 2026 Newsletter

Member Statistics:
Active Members: 122

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From the Board



News:

- **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.**
- **Dan Miller, KA9OIL was appointed to the new trustee position for W9UDU by the board. This position was created at the January membership meeting by approval of a bylaw amendment.**

Officer's Comments



Vice President Fred, K9SO

As we continue to grow, our need for volunteers expands along with us. Our next big event, LRA's unique event "A TASTE of FIELD DAY" is coming up on Saturday, June 27 at Bong State Park. We will be demonstrating POTA stations as well as the Megacycle remote stations. Bring the whole family for this fun radio picnic experience.

It's not too early to start planning our "HAM RADIO EXPERIENCE" hamfest on August 8. It seems a long way off, but it comes up fast. We're still looking for volunteers to man their own "mentor" booth to show off our hobby as well as administration of the hamfest in general. The EXPERIENCE TABLES" will be only a one hour commitment of your time that day. The complexity of our hobby has grown in recent years. Help out the new hams by helping them through some of the things that have made Ham Radio interesting to you. Bring your ideas. We'll have a signup sheet at the March membership

meeting. Or just give me or Kevin a call.

We've been advised that the water tower in Union Grove where we have had one of our 2 meter receive sites for decades will be repainted in August this year. Everything on the tower will have to be removed including our feedline and antennas before this happens. As of this writing, we have no guarantee that we will be allowed to place our antennas back on the tower after the work is done, but our technical team, lead by **Kevin, N9OIG**, is on top of things and leading the negotiations with the city.

Secretary Matt, AF9Q:

The club currently has 122 members, and we extend a sincere thank-you to everyone supporting the LRA. At the January 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 full bylaws are available at: <https://www.kr9rk.com/lra-bylaws/>

At the board meeting on February 10, 2026, Dan Miller, KA9OIL, was approved to fill this position. We are grateful for Dan's continued support and willingness to serve.

Looking ahead to elections: at each 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 time.

Board positions open for re-election next year (October 2027) are Secretary and Vice President. Details regarding eligibility for board positions are outlined in Article 4 of the LRA Bylaws, available at: <https://www.kr9rk.com/lra-bylaws/>

As always, we welcome and encourage members to volunteer for various club activities.

Treasurer, Rick, KC9UJO

The financial picture of the club has largely remained the same since the 2025 Q4 report. We have made cash sale deposits in both the General and Megacycle accounts. All the bills for the club are current.

W9UDU Megacycle

In February we are developing the 2026 capital plan for the Megacycle site. Financial planning for the construction of (6) anchor foundations, tower height extension, and the associated guy rigging. Antenna systems, cabling and equipment interface is still being conceptually developed.

KR9RK Repeater

The existing battery backup system for the DMR and the VHF repeaters were removed during February and were replaced with newer and greater capacity Lead Acid batteries. The batteries were donated to the club for repeater use. 2026 financial planning is now including the Union Grove water tower painting project. The club has been made aware that the village of Union Grove will be painting the water tower in either 2nd or 3rd quarter 2026. We are currently looking at budgeting for complete replacement of the feedlines and the antenna array.

Megacycle Group



The Megacycle group was set up last year as a benefit to LRA members. We currently have three radios on line (2 in Raymond, Wi. and 1 in Mooresville, NC). These are all remotely controlled and operation is easy. Our big HF beam on radio #1 might get you the “big one”, Bouvet Island, this month.

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.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/12lyVHUjdYkiICmS_D6x096pUOHSqp53hHjyFOEDQ9ll/edit?usp=sharing

Status:

Our construction crew, lead by Rick, KC9UJO, is currently surveying the site for installation of guy anchors for towers 2 and 3. This is a big job involving a lot of concrete but we hope to be able to get those towers up to the 50-60 foot level when properly guyed. Please contact Rick if you can lend a hand.

Current Megacycle members: please be prepared for a nominal annual fee to be imposed to support our ongoing expenses. These fees will be implemented as directed by the LRA board sometime later this year.

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](https://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.

Daryl, VK3AWA has reported success with FT-2 on our radios (see below)

Repeater Group



Our technical director, Kevin, N9OIG is leading the negotiations with the City of Union Grove, Wisconsin to continue our use of their water tower. The tower is planned for repainting in August and all of our antennas and feedlines must be removed. We currently use the site as a remote receiver for our 2m repeater.

Maintenance has continued and replacement backup batteries have been installed in most locations. The batteries themselves were from a much-appreciated donation.

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



From Daryl, VK3AWA (KK9AWA):

Recently, FT2 has been released. I decided to test it on the club radios but did not hold much hope of getting successful decodes due to possible latency issues. The mode has a fast duty cycle of just over 3 seconds. There was quite a bit of activity which surprised me. Also, I had little problem decoding signals which also surprised me.

For those interested, FT2 is incorporated in **WSJTX improved** which can be found here <https://wsjt-x-improved.sourceforge.io/>
I created a new directory so I didn't compromise my current working version of WSJTX.

73

Daryl VK3AWA (KK9AWA)

Bruce, K9WBT will be hosting a group refresher on the Megacycle Group's radios. Watch for his announcement.

Steve, N9SEB:

“Here is a youtube video your audience might find interesting... video history of CW training in WWII.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtv2DsTiC3Q>

... as you progress in your CW training, you will begin to hear simple words instead of individual letters. — ed

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:

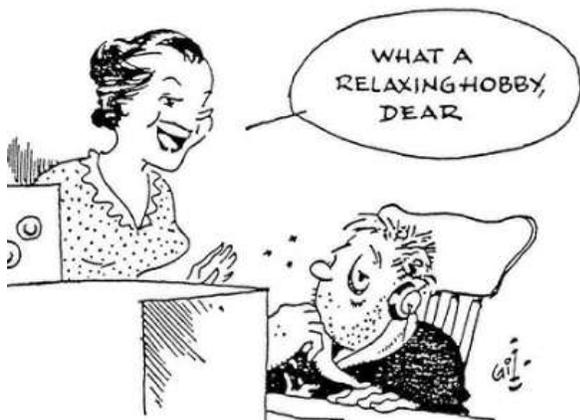


No one before has ever accused me of being a “Master of Moderation”, but according to this award from Mike, WW9X, I am. This new certificate will be awarded to moderators who have run the un-net for over 100 times. Mine is a wee bit late (I’ve done almost 500), but better late than never.

This is certificate #1. Number two goes to Bill, KD1Z and number 3 to Rick, KC9UJO.



Thanks to Mike for continuing the awards tradition started by Dave, NP2I.



see ContestCalendar.com for details



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)

When submitting your scores, be sure to include your club, Lakeshore Radio Association for our cumulative club score.

Wisconsin QSO Party	
Status:	Active historically, but unconfirmed
Geographic Focus:	United States/Canada state/province QSO party
Participation:	Worldwide
Awards:	Worldwide
Mode:	CW, Phone, Digital (no FT4/8)
Bands:	All, except WARC
Classes:	Single Op (Fixed/Mobile/Rookie)(QRP/Low/High) Multi-Op (Fixed/Mobile)(QRP/Low/High) Multi/Multi (Fixed/Mobile)(QRP/Low/High)
Max power:	HP: >100 watts LP: 100 watts QRP: 5 watts
Exchange:	WI: county non-WI: (state/province/country)
Work stations:	Once per band per mode
QSO Points:	1 point per Phone QSO 2 points per CW/Digital QSO Bonus Points: 500 points for mobiles for each county from which you make at least 12 QSOs Bonus Points: 100 points for each band/mode QSO with W9FK below 50 MHz
Multipliers:	WI Stations: WI counties, states, provinces once Non-WI Stations: WI counties once Power mults: HP x1.0, LP x1.5, QRP x2.0
Score Calculation:	Total score = (total QSO points x power mult x total mults) + bonus points
E-mail logs to:	wiqp-logs[at]warac[dot]org
Mail logs to:	Wisconsin QSO Party PO Box 511381 New Berlin, WI 53151 USA
Find rules at:	http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm
Cabrillo name:	WIQP
Cabrillo name aliases:	WI-QSO-PARTY

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.

HAPPY HOUR



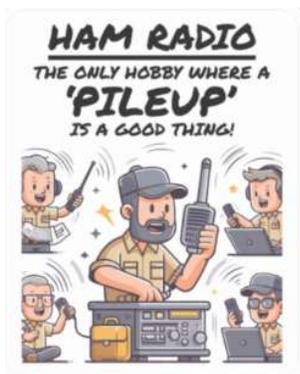
Our HH [Groups.IO](https://groups.io) forum membership has been reduced below the 100 number (where we would have to pay). No need for further reductions.

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.

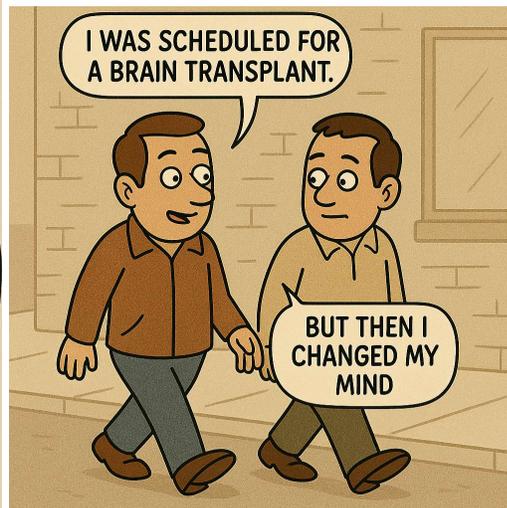
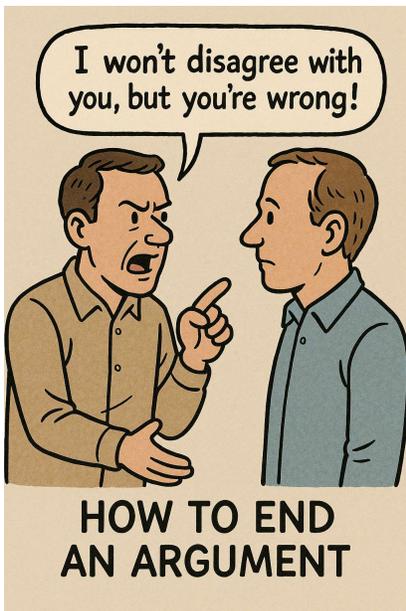
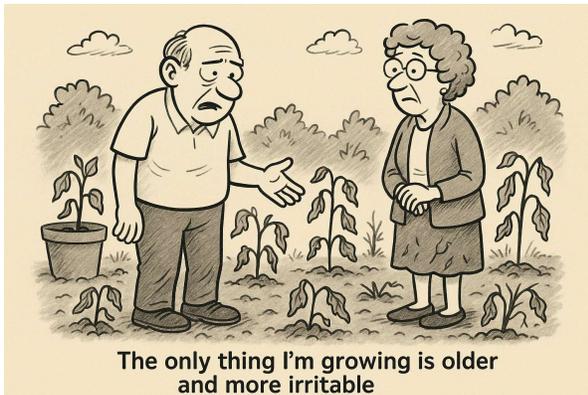
What started off as a joke, the check-in pileup has become our signature event. You have to be persistent to get logged in sometimes as "getting crushed" is common.

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



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.



Let's get on with this fundraiser!!!!

Jeff, KC9JOB has donated his Ender-3 printer to the Megacycle fundraising effort. 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. Start by contacting Jeff at \$100. For someone looking to get into 3D printing, this would be a bargain at any price.

Guaranteed working order and I'm sure Jeff will help you get it going.





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, don't forget to renew. 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

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

Addenda:

Mon, Mar 2 at 6:51 PM

HamFest 2026

Buy/Sell Amateur Radio Equipment, Electronics and Computer Gear

Sunday

March 15, 2026

Free Parking!

Can you believe it? The Tri-County Amateur Radio Club HamFest 2026 at the Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center, 503 N Jackson Street, in Jefferson, WI, is less than 2 WEEKS AWAY on Sunday, March 15, 2026? The event is 100% indoors, so come rain or shine, Wisconsin weather doesn't stop us!! Doors open to the public at 8 AM, with Vendor set up starting at 6:30 AM. On-air talk-in will be available on the Club 2M repeater, W9MQB, at 145.49 (negative offset, with CTCSS 123.0). Check the website for detailed maps and directions to the event.

Vendor tables have been selling fast, with over 100 already claimed, but we still have around ten still open, if you move fast. Tables are available in advance for \$15 per 8' table; choose your own tables on the Club website at <https://www.w9mqb.org/SwapFest/> using our online ordering tool. Sorry, there isn't enough time for mail-in orders at this point and I don't expect that we'll have any left on the day of the Fest. You'll get to pick your own table and will receive electronic tickets delivered to your email inbox in a few minutes, so no need to worry about lost tickets!

Amateur Radio exams will be NOT be offered at the Fest this year, as the retired ham who ran our testing for years has decided to retire from this role as well. We are working on this for 2026, but this will mean no testing this year. Drop by the Club table to find other local options to test for your first Amateur Radio license or upgrade.

Tickets: Save time waiting in line and buy your tickets online at <https://www.W9MQB.org/SwapFest/> and save 20% -- online tickets are only \$8 (plus fees and taxes). You'll get electronic tickets delivered to your mail inbox in a few minutes, so no need to worry about lost tickets! We've passed the deadline for snail mail, so this is a MUCH better option than waiting in line!

Testing: While we're still working on options to make this possible in 2027, we will not have Amateur Radio exams at the Fest this year. If you are interested in testing, drop a reply to this email, so we can suggest other options to test for your first Amateur Radio license or upgrade.

Breakfast: The Fair park informed us that we WILL have breakfast served by a local 4H group. Get your caffeine and blood sugar levels up while you support a good local cause.

Questions? Reply back to us at HamFest@W9MQB.org for answers to your questions!

See you on March 15th!

Tri-County Amateur Radio Club

<https://www.W9MQB.org>

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