

Lakeshore Radio Association

April 2026 Newsletter



Member Statistics:
Active Members: 126

New members:
Selena, KE9EZN
Richard, W9AUA
Steven K5SJC
Shaun, W1SCD

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:

- **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.**
- **We are sad to announce the passing of Dennis, KB9RRX, a longtime user of the LRA repeaters and the Happy Hour**

Officer's Comments



President, Dwayne, N9PYA

.....

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:

.....

Treasurer, Rick, KC9UJO

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



WIND DAMAGE: There are some serious winds at our Raymond Megacycle site and our GAP antenna suffered some severe damage. It looks repairable, but we're waiting for better weather. Rick, KC9UJO, is taking charge of the fix but he needs some help. Please contact him at TREASURER@KR9RK.COM if you can lend a hand.



We're also waiting for better weather to accurately locate the lot lines. The corner towers are very close and we need to assess where some guy anchors can be placed. This will determine how high these towers can go. Planning for the new HF beam is waiting for these results.

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. (It did for Bruce, K9WBT ... see below)

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/12lyVHUjdYkilCmS_D6x096pUOHSqp53hHjyFOEDQ9II/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://www.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.

30 Active Club Member Users and Growing!

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.

Storms in late March caused power to go out at the repeater site a few times. The UHF repeater was down during these times due to a failure of the battery backup on a Raspberry Pi used to control it. This has been corrected and the UHF repeater will continue to operate during power outages (all repeaters go into low power modes during power outages).

A reminder that the Union Grove 2m receiver will go off line in August due to a painting project on the water tower.

Member Highlights



Bruce, K9WBT snagged a super rare one Bouvet Island, CY0K using radio #1 at the Megacycle site. Congratulations Bruce!



Jeff, KC9JOB, couldn't resist 3D printing these adorable goblins:



He's been more practical too with printing new cases for his cracked batteries on his power tools.

For years I've enjoyed a wood burning patio table I call the "Beer can warmer" (since it does that so well). But burning wood takes a long commitment. I converted it to propane this month and am now enjoying it at the "spur of the moment".



Randy, N9LTA shared this story of working FT-8 DX:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bmj1S2GUlugMbZ88rfK0AhesfVtWYo98Z7ZmO6daLY/edit?usp=sharing>

Rich, W9ABE contributed this link to view what Starlink's satellite constellation looks like today. !0,000 and increasing every week!

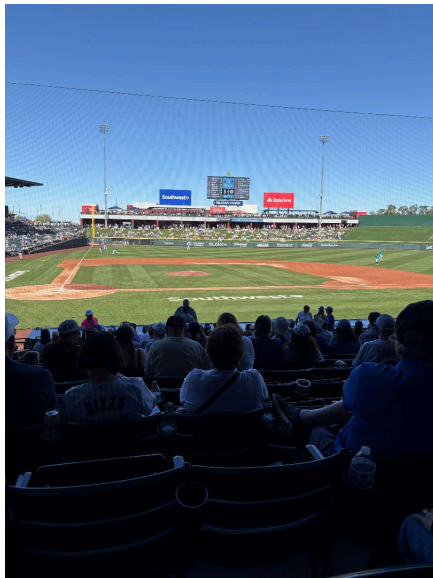
[Animation](#)

For fun, the "tongue in cheek club AMATEUR MOBILE ASSOCIATION", with **Fred, K9SO** serving as president and HMFIC, has renewed its famous **K9SOB** callsign:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION			
AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE K9SOB			
ATTN: CHARLES E. GLENN AMATEUR MOBILE ASSOCIATION PO BOX 480 POWERS LAKE, WI 53159			
FCC Registration Number (FRN): 0016778300			
Special Conditions / Endorsements			
NONE			
Grant Date	Effective Date	Print Date	Expiration Date
03-26-2026	03-26-2026	03-26-2026	04-08-2036
File Number	Operator Privileges		Station Privileges
0011960250			CLUB
THIS LICENSE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE			
(Licensee's Signature)			FCC 660 - August 2021

Does anyone have any good phonetics that come to mind?

In early March, I travelled to Phoenix and picked up 4 Spring Training games. Lots of fun including this Cubs game at their park.



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:



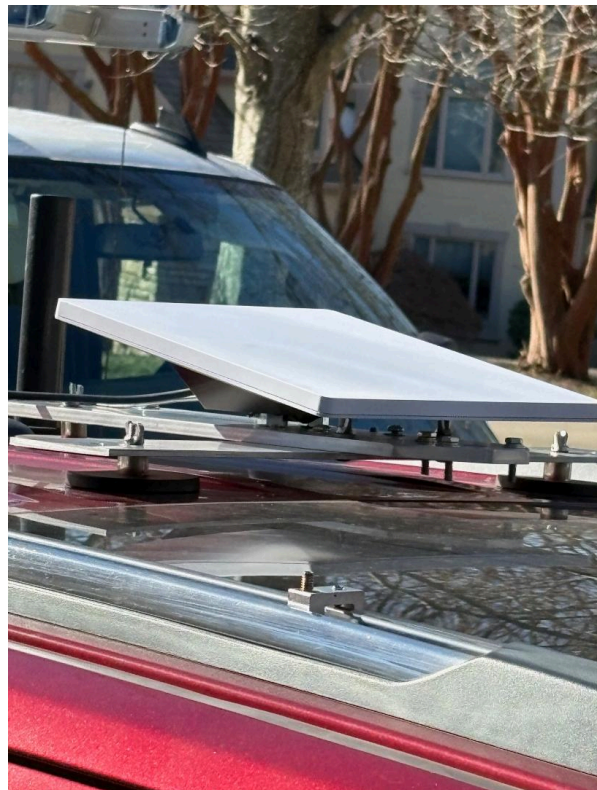
No one before has ever accused me of being a “Master of Moderation”, but according to this award from Mike, WW9X, I am. This new certificate will be awarded to moderators who have run the un-net for over 100 times. Mine is a wee bit late (I’ve done almost 500), but better late than never.

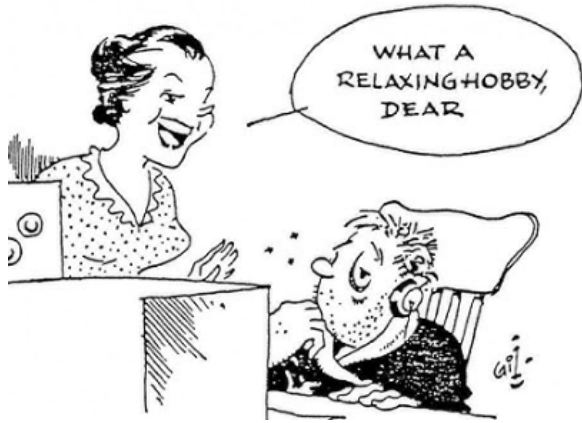
This is certificate #1. Number two goes to Bill, KD1Z and number 3 to Bruce, K9WBT and #4 to Rick, KC9UJO.



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

Just for fun, I mounted a Starlink terminal on my car. I've connected it to my "RemoteRig IC-706" network and even to Raymond Flex's with success. I'm getting about 300/20 Mbps with it while moving. It works great almost anywhere except for under bridges and in the tunnels. They limit operation in cars to 100 MPH so it will be of limited use for me:





You might not want to miss the ARRL's ROOKIE ROUNDUP on April 19

Lots of contest activities this month see ContestCalendar.com for details

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



This event flyer was sent to all members via email. Please distribute.

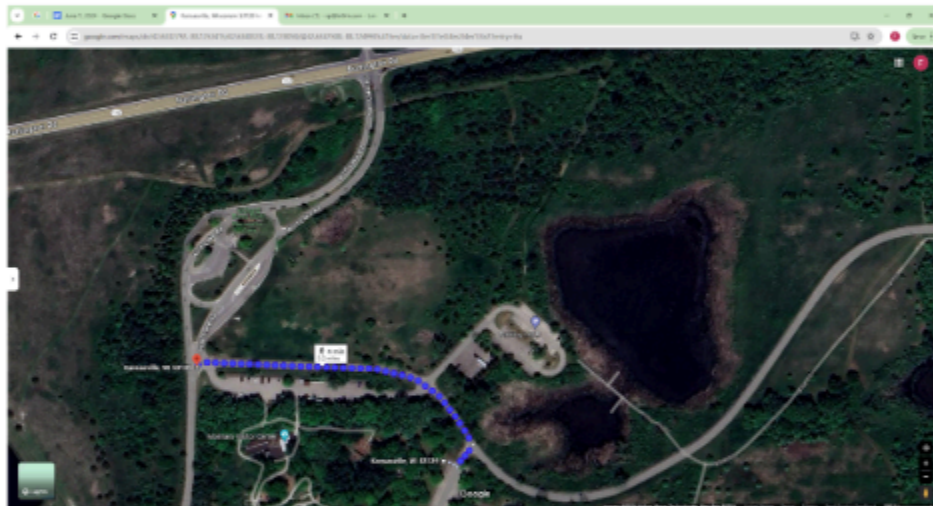


“Taste of Field Day” event

Saturday, June 27 12:00pm-5:00pm

Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to Events.chair@kr9rk.com with # of attendees (for our planning) or just drop in and BYO POTA at Bong. Sponsored by Lakeshore Radio Association.

Richard Bong State Park directions to Shelter #1:



Enter from SR142 (Burlington Rd). Take the first road to the left after the entrance ranger station. Go about 1000 feet and turn right to shelter 1 parking area. We're right next to the park amphitheatre. Google map directions to Richard Bong State Park: [DRIVING DIRECTIONS LINK](#)

Fun for the whole family! Emergency Field Day HF transmitters, “Big Gun” remote HF Radio stations, BYO POTA stations, “Foxhunt” transmitter hunt activities and Picnic food / refreshments provided (BYOB and your own chairs if desired ... lots of picnic tables available). This is a free event and is a shortened version of the ARRL weekend Field Day without the overnight commitments. Just a “taste” of the ARRL Field Day. A Wisconsin State Park entrance fee is required. \$8 vehicle pass (\$3 for 65+) or annual Wi State Park sticker required and available at entrance.

Everyone will be encouraged to operate the HF radios during the Field Day contest... kids, XYLs, non hams, and Tech class out of band licensees! Fun for the whole family. Extended operating to 11:00 pm is possible if desired. *This event is sponsored by the Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.*

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 Summer Picnic

LRA's Summer Picnic is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 15 at old Settlers Park in Union Grove. 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



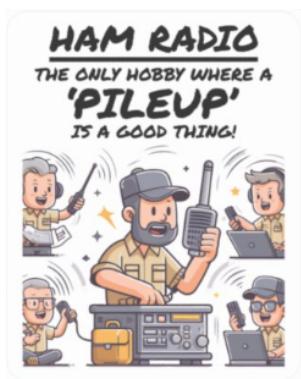
Our HH [Groups.IO](https://groups.io) forum membership has been reduced below the 100 number (where we would have to pay). No need for further reductions.

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.

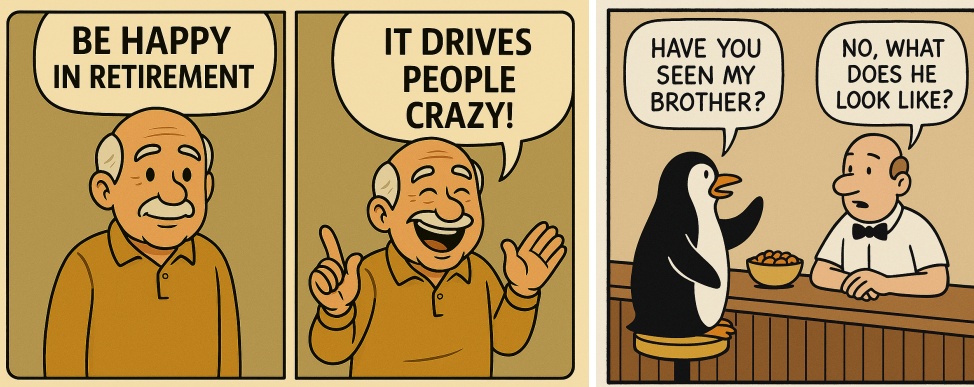
What started off as a joke, the check-in pileup has become our signature event. You have to be persistent to get logged in sometimes as "getting crushed" is common.

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



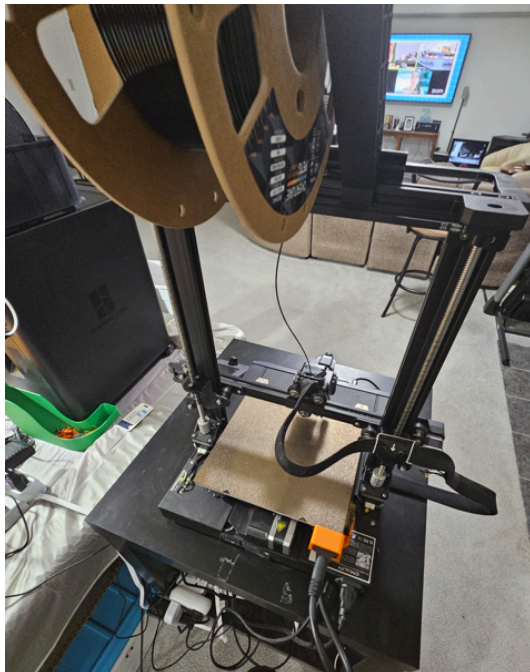
What you “NEED” Dept.



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.



Bruce, K9WBT found these printer deals:

These came up on my Facebook Market feed ; dirt cheap.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1KLJQnDKn1/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

The SWAP MEET

Send in your treasured items to the Editor



A reminder that we still have this 5KW generator for sale. Good running condition. \$100 club donation.



We also have a lot of prebuilt field day dipoles and antennas.

My loaded FTDX 3000 is still available: new low price of only \$700

SOLD!



Tom, N9BUN, has this fine Yaesu 757 for sale \$350 complete!



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.

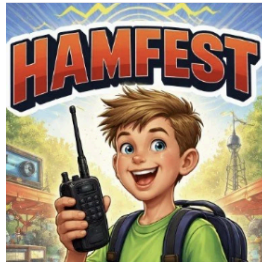
Also, don't forget to renew. Consider upgrading to a 5 year membership.

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

Addendum:



Here's a great site for hamfests and local volunteer events: <https://www.amateurradioevents.com/hamfests>

Coming up:

<u>DATE & LOCAL TIME</u>	<u>EVENT (Link)</u>	<u>SPONSOR (Email)</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
APRIL 18, 2026 8:00am - 11:00am	ANTIQUÉ RADIO CLUB SWAP MEET	Antique Radio Club of Illinois	LOCATION: 570 Gary Ave, Carol Stream, IL COST: Free TALK-IN: None NOTES: Donation sale - occurs five times per year
APRIL 18, 2026 8:00am - Noon	MADISON HAMFEST	Madison Area Repeater Association (MARA - W9HSY)	LOCATION: Mandt Community Center, 400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, WI COST: \$10 door, \$8 in adv, <12 free TALK-IN: 147.150 MHz+, pl 123.0 NOTES: Amateur radio, electronics, computers, parts and software, flea market, VE testing at 10am
APRIL 25, 2026 8am-Noon	OZAUKEE SPRING SWAPFEST	Ozaukee Radio Club (W9CQO)	LOCATION: W67N890 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, WI COST: \$7 adult, under 12 free TALK-IN: 146.97/127.3pl NOTES: Food, prizes, free WIFI
MAY 3, 2026 7am-1pm	DEKALB HAMFEST	Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club (WA9CJN)	LOCATION: Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich, IL COST: \$10 door, \$8 in advance TALK-IN: 146.730(-)/100pl NOTES: Prizes, camping, rain or shine
MAY 15-17, 2026 9am-5pm Fri/Sat, 9am-1pm Sun	HAMVENTION 2026	Dayton Amateur Radio Association (W9BJ)	LOCATION: Green County Fair, 210 Fairground Rd, Xenia, OH COST: \$26; \$30 after 3/1/26 TALK-IN: 146.940(-)/123pl NOTES: Ticket sales began 10/22.
MAY 30, 2026 8:00am - Noon	GREEN BAY HAMFEST	Green Bay Mike & Key Club (K9EAM)	LOCATION: Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 120 S. Henry St, Green Bay, WI COST: \$5 entry TALK-IN: 147.120, 107.2 pl NOTES: Food, drawings

Information courtesy Kirk (K9MSG)