

# Lakeshore Radio Association

May 2026 Newsletter



## Member Statistics:

Active Members: 130 and still growing

[Richard R Carravetta](#)

[STEPHEN J CHEPEY](#)

[Nicholas M La Joie](#)

[Randolph Bogdan](#)

New members (also see Secretary report):

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## 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:

- **A resolution was passed to ask the membership if they wanted to go to a monthly meeting cadence in addition to the quarterly-only meetings. The proposal was to keep the standard quarterly meetings at the YMCA for business and fill the months in between with less formal get togethers where monthly technical presentations and/or workshops would be held.**
- **The informal meetings would be held at local restaurants and would require minimum planning other than whomever may make a presentation for the month.**
- **Repeater rules: the board reminds the users of our repeaters to always show courtesy and respect for other operators. Don't break into ongoing conversations if you have nothing to add. Above all, when logging into directed nets, always follow the Net Control Station's instructions exactly.**
- **The secretary was directed to send out a survey to the membership to ask if this is something the members would like to begin. Please watch for it.**

# Officer's Comments



**President, Dwayne, N9PYA**

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**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.

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## **Secretary Matt, AF9Q**

Please welcome our new members:

Richard Carravetta, W9AUA

Steven Chepey, K5SJC

Nicholas La Joie, W9MKE

Randolph Bogdan, W2RBC

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## **Treasurer, Rick, KC9UJO**

The club is in a sound financial position. We now have over 40K in assets including cash on hand and equipment. The financial report for Q1 2026 was approved by the membership at the April membership meeting. We continue to derive sales from membership sales, Megacycle subscriptions, auctions as well as other cash donations.

Megacycle site has seen its fair share of high winds as well as strong convective weather lately. The east tower, which is the tower that supports the 6 meter and HF beam, has survived 60 MPH winds during storms in April. We made a decision to guy the tower last year and we believe that guying helped the tower stand tall. A [neighborhood] 60 foot [un-guyed] tower collapsed. We have had our share of problems with the Titan Gap antenna which is now out of plumb and has a nasty bend in the backbone of the antenna. In April we attempted to stabilize the antenna by using a gin pole to help support the base however this is a temporary solution. In the weeks to come we will be looking for folks to help out as we remove the Gap Antenna to the ground and attempt to straighten out the antenna. More to follow!

Thanks Rick

# 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](mailto: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/12lyVHUjdYkiICmS\\_D6x096pUOHSqp53hHjyFOEDQ9ll/edit?usp=sharing](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](http://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](http://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.

**32 Active Megacycle Group Members 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.

A reminder that the Union Grove 2m receiver will go off line in August due to a painting project on the water tower. There will be costs associated with getting this back on line. New antennas, new feedlines, and perhaps hiring professional installers. The members will be asked to approve these expenditures at a membership meeting.

If we go forward with the Union Grove site, we will be setting it up for possible dual band operation to support both of our analog repeaters.

# Member Highlights



**Jeff, KC9JOB** donated his rebuilt and redesigned Ender 3D printer to the Megacycle group and it was purchased by Matt, AF9Q.

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A massive remodeling project at the NC home of K9SO is delaying his return to Wisconsin



**Greg, W9GTH** posted this for Linux users:

I know that the ham radio community has its fair share of computers, so I wanted to pass on this link to anyone who might be looking to talk Linux with other Southeastern Wisconsin users for learning/support/etc.

<https://lakeshorelinux.org/>

This has no affiliation with the LRA - I just thought there would be enough crossover here it would be worth sharing.

Thanks,  
Greg

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**Tom, W9FL** posted this interesting video about the Heathkit Company:

Here is an interesting video about the Heathkit company.

This might not mean much to the younger members, but it was a great loss to Amateurs when this company went out of business. I built a couple Heathkits in my time, and it was a fascinating and fun experience. Nothing like it.

I built a VTVM (vacuum tube volt meter) and a digital VOM. My uncle who was a ham (W8ZNG, SK) built their color television. He was one of the first people I knew who had a color TV. I longed to build other kits in their catalog, but money was a factor in my younger years (High School).

Link to video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUQOG1hp54g&t=329s>

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I posted my CW learning technique, copied below. Not everyone agrees with this method but it got a lot of members thinking about CW again. Learning code is [K9] SO easy:

# Learning CW (Morse Code): A Practical Method That Works

## Key Principle

**CW is a language. It must be learned by sound—not by visual decoding.**

Most beginners fail because they try to:

- look at dots and dashes
- translate to letters
- then form words

That's slow, frustrating, and leads to quitting.

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## The Right Way to Learn CW

### Start by **SENDING**, not copying

This is the most important idea.

#### Why?

Sending:

- teaches you the characters
- builds rhythm and timing
- helps you *hear* what you are sending
- creates a mental connection between letters and sound

Copying too early:

- overloads your brain
  - causes constant failure
  - leads most people to give up
- 

## Step-by-Step Method

### Phase 1 – Learn by Sending

1. Learn the alphabet **one character at a time**
2. Practice sending:
  - individual letters
  - then simple words
3. Send **plain text**, not random letters
4. Go slowly and accurately
5. You send at YOUR pace, not a fixed rate.

#### Goal:

Be able to send readable text comfortably

You'll be surprised at how fast you can pick up the entire alphabet one character at a time. Sending. Not copying.

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### Phase 2 – Build to 10 WPM Sending Speed

- Gradually increase speed
- Focus on:
  - consistency
  - rhythm
  - accuracy

#### Important:

Don't rush this phase!

Target:

Send plain text at ~10 WPM

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## Phase 3 — Begin Copying (Now You're Ready)

Only start copying **after** you can send at ~10 WPM.

Now when you listen:

- the sounds are familiar
- your brain recognizes patterns
- copying becomes much easier
- you will still "panic" when you miss a character. Just ignore it and pick up again a few characters later
- If you study Swahili, you encounter strange sounds. Just like CW

Expectation:

- You will copy much **slower than you can send**
  - That's normal
  - If you can send at 10WPM, you may only be able to copy at 5WPM. That's OK. Start sending at 15 WPM.
- 

## Why This Works

- You learn CW the same way you learn a spoken language:
  - sound first
  - recognition second
- Sending builds:
  - memory
  - timing
  - sound recognition
  - learning at your own pace
- Copying too early causes:
  - frustration

- failure
  - dropout
- 

## Common Mistakes to Avoid

- ✗ Trying to memorize dots and dashes visually
  - ✗ Starting with copying code characters that are strange to you
  - ✗ Going too fast too early
  - ✗ Practicing random characters instead of real text
- 

## What to Expect

- Early success (because sending is much easier)
  - Growing confidence
  - Gradual improvement in recognition
  - Much lower frustration
- 

## Bottom Line

**Most people quit CW because they start with copying.**

**Start with sending, build to at least ~10 WPM, then begin copying.**

This method works because it builds the right foundation first.

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If you follow this approach:

- CW becomes learnable
- progress is steady
- and success is far more likely

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**John, AC90T** captured some amazing photos of the April 17 storm that hit the area. John, a recently retired police officer is obviously excelling at his “second” hobby:





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

**Rich, W9ABE** makes note that the photographers of comets are being especially hard hit by all the Starlink satellites in orbit:



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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](mailto: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:



Congratulations to **Bill, KD1Z** being awarded his “MASTER OF MODERATION” award certificate #2 at the quarterly membership meeting.



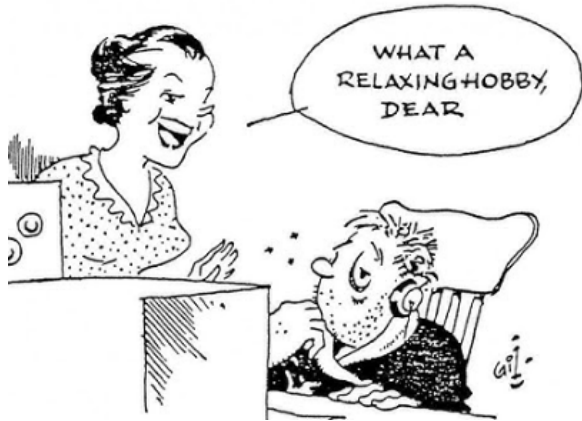
No one before has ever accused me of being a “Master of Moderation”, but according to this award from Mike, WW9X, I am. This new certificate will be awarded to moderators who have run the un-net for over 100 times. Mine is a wee bit late (I’ve done almost 500), but better late than never.

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.

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Lots of contest activities this month see [ContestCalendar.com](http://ContestCalendar.com) for details

The big CQWW WPX contest (CW) begins on May 30.

## 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](mailto:EVENTS@KR9RK.COM)



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

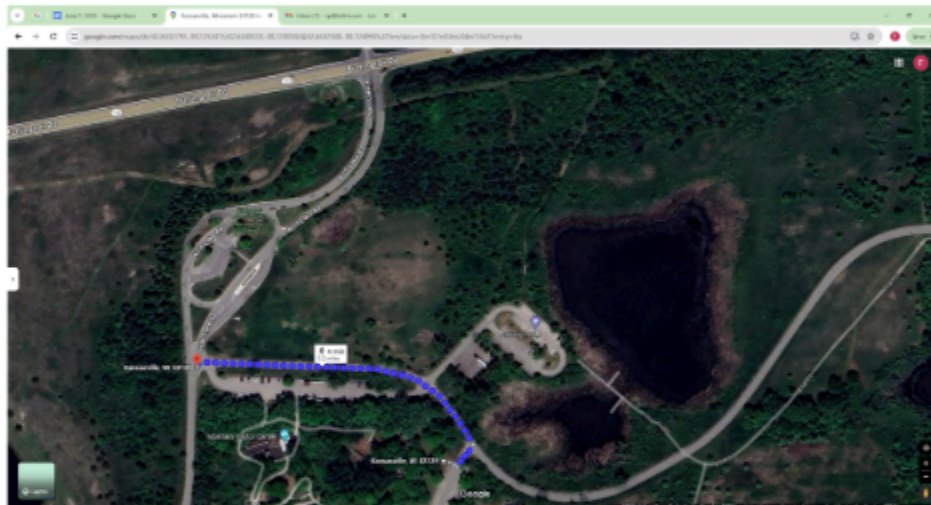


## “Taste of Field Day” event

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

Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to [Events.chair@kr9rk.com](mailto: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](#)**

**It's not too early to start working on your presentation**

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# LRA Summer Picnic

LRA's Summer Picnic is still TBD but it will be held 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.



**FOXHUNTS MAY BE RETURNING!**

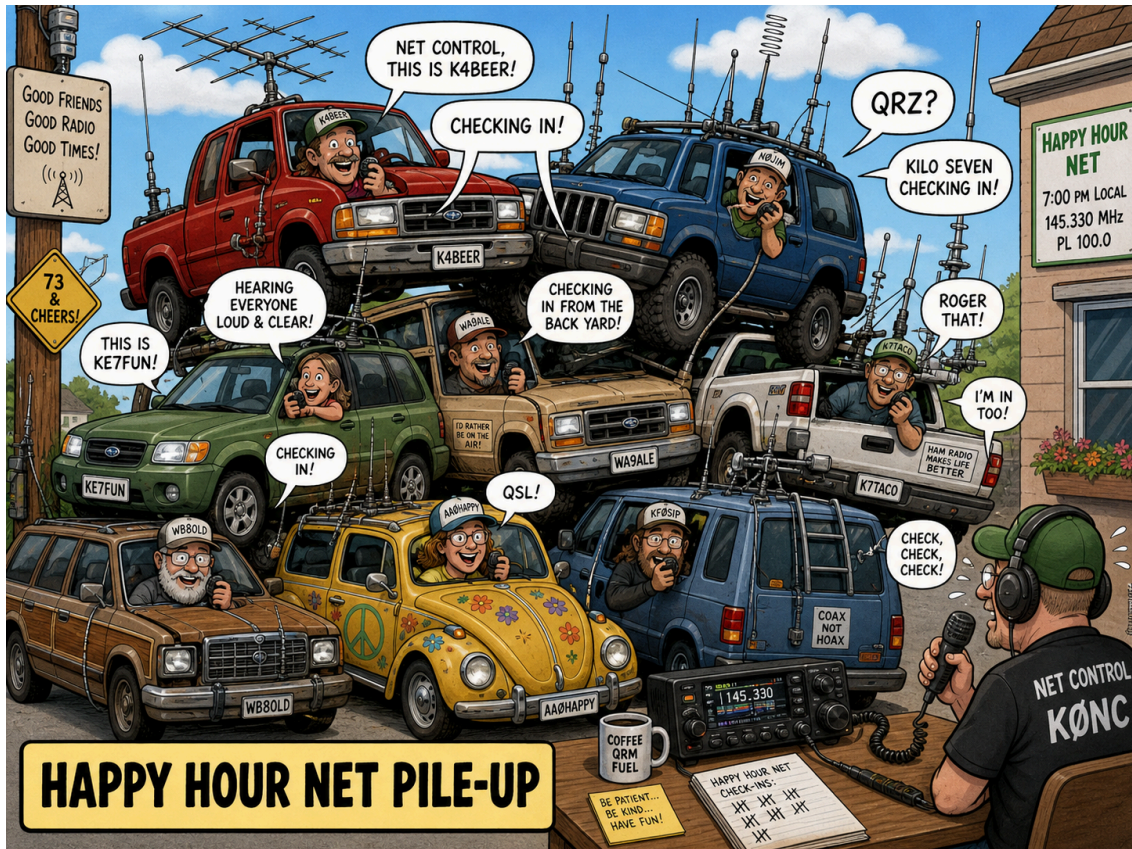
I've heard rumors that our Secretary Matt, AF9Q is planning on a few foxhunts this summer. Let's have a great turnout and a big show of support.

# New ChatGPT Imaging capabilities

In April, ChatGPT improved its imaging software and it's amazing! I took the picture of my actual driveway on the left and ChatGPT removed all the construction materials, painted the fence, and added a couple of planters I designed. It then gave me the final "rendering" of how it will look:



# HAPPY HOUR



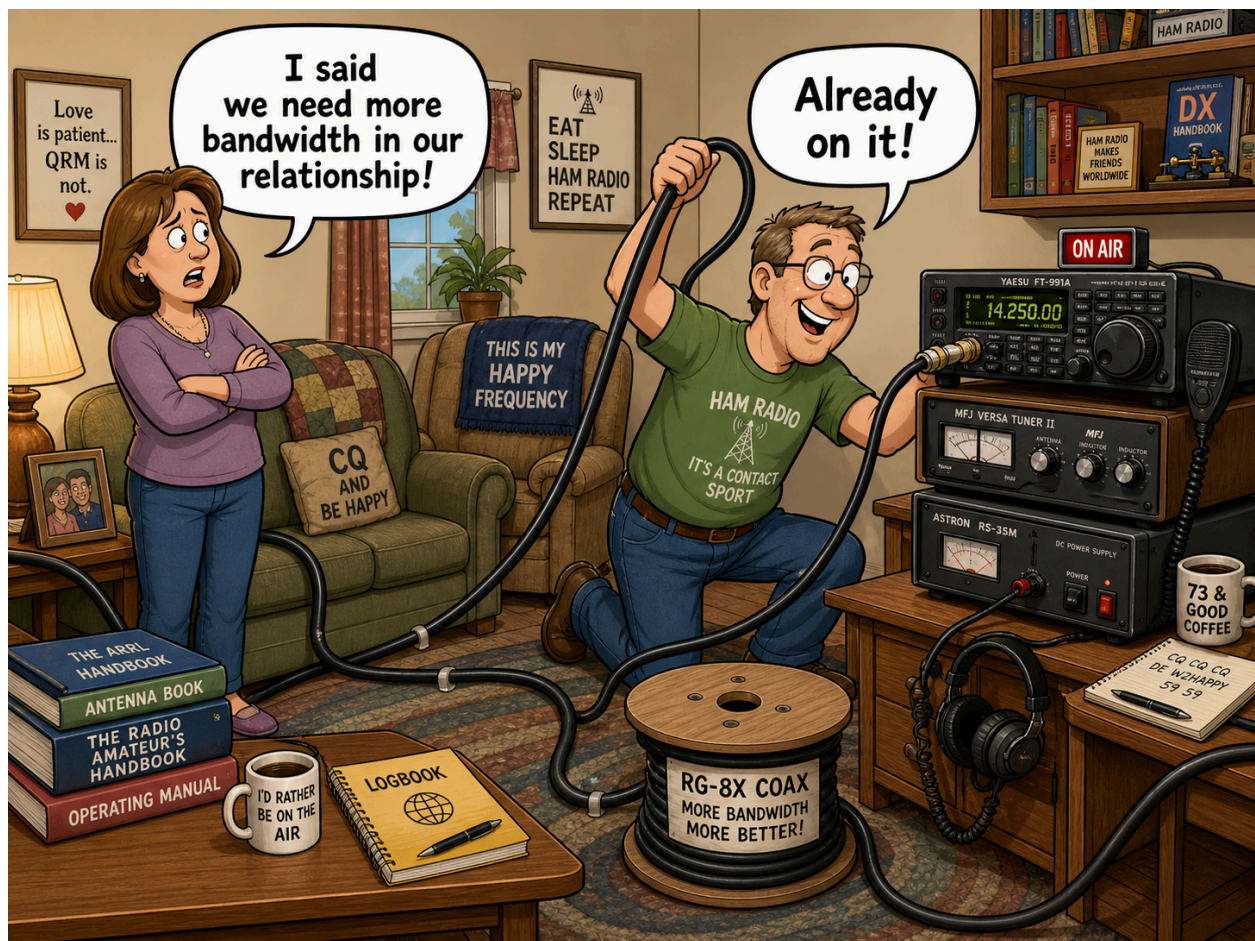
Our HH [Groups.IO](https://groups.io) forum membership has been reduced below the 100 number (where we would have to pay). No need for further reductions.

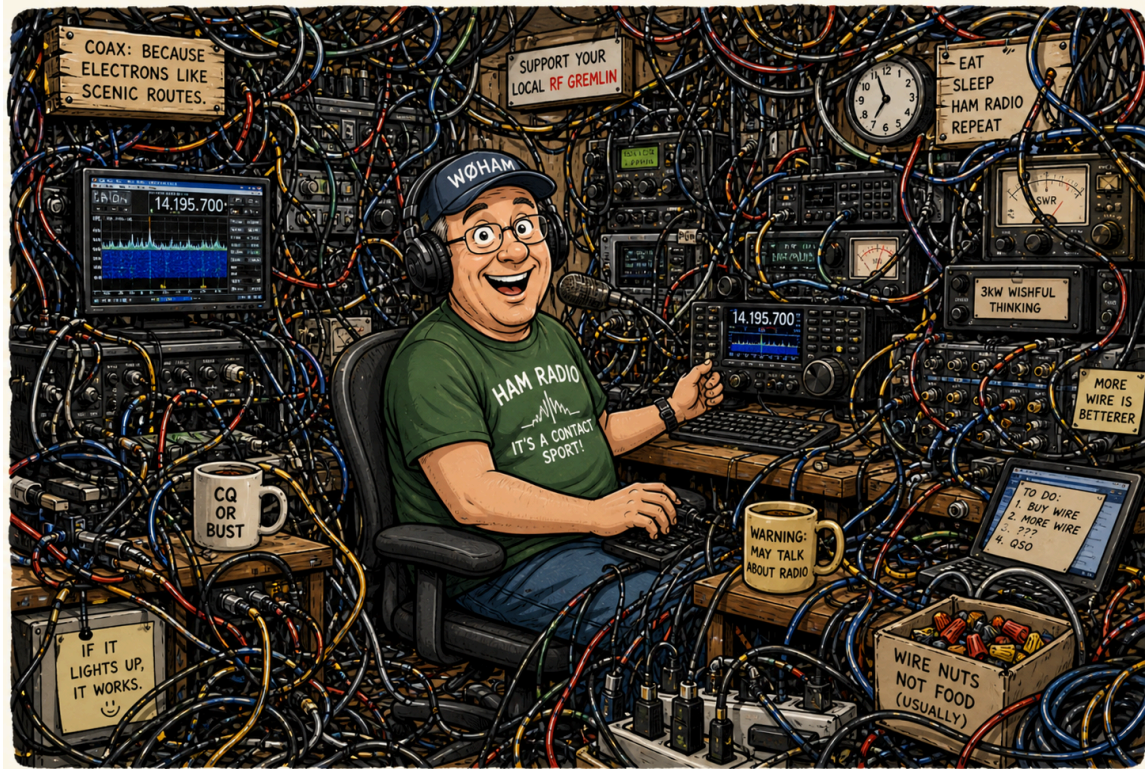
Our Daily “Un-Net” continues to grow. Our “in your face” forum misbehaves and is the best example you’ll ever see on how not to run a real net.

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”,

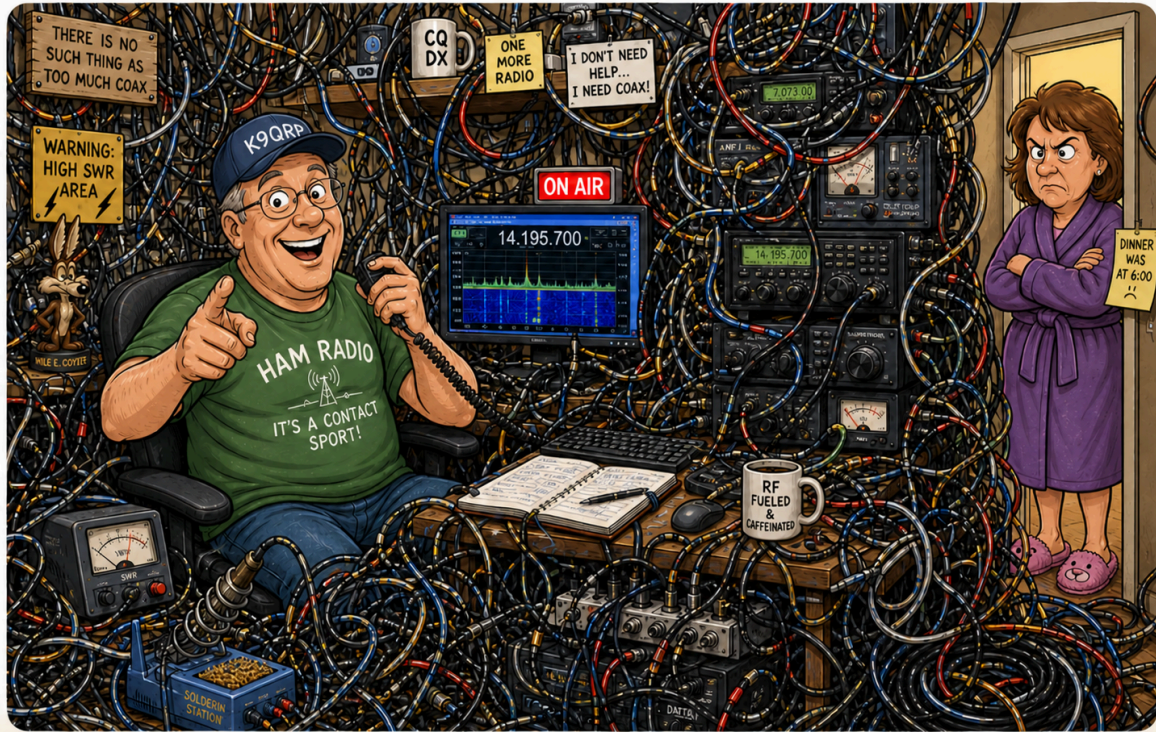
# The Lighter Side



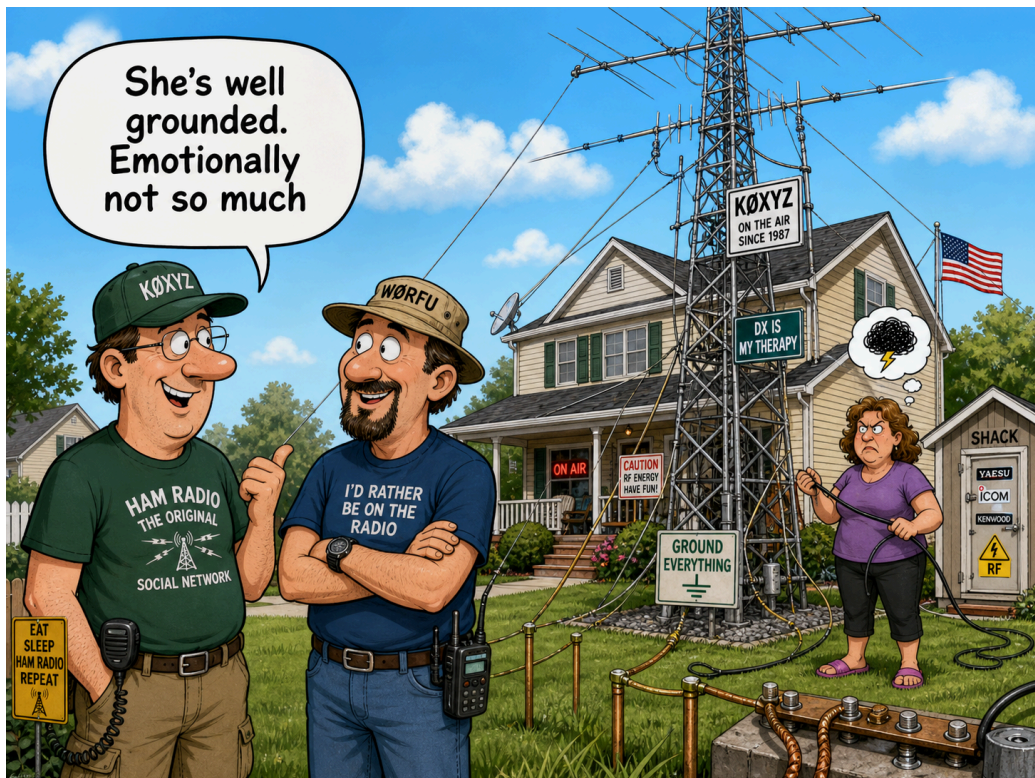


We call it 'wireless'





Antennas, perfect. XYL, mismatched



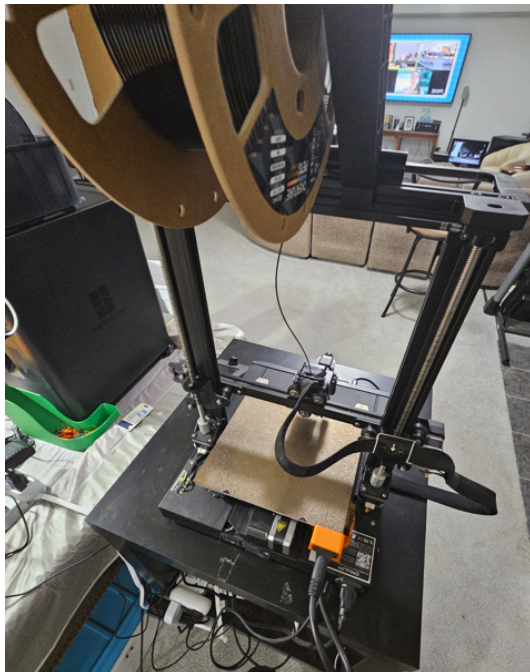
# What you “NEED” Dept.



**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.**



# **SOLD!**

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

**SOLD!**



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



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# 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](http://KR9RK.COM).

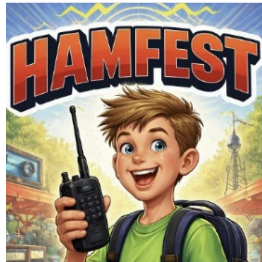
Also, don't forget to renew. Consider upgrading to a 5 year membership.

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](mailto:VP@KR9RK.COM)

## Addendum:



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

## Coming up:

<u>DATE &amp; 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	<a href="#">Antique Radio Club of Illinois</a>	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	<a href="#">Madison Area Repeater Association (MARA - W9HSY)</a>	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	<a href="#">Ozaukee Radio Club (W9CQO)</a>	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	<a href="#">Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club (WA9CJN)</a>	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	<a href="#">Dayton Amateur Radio Association (W9BJ)</a>	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	<a href="#">Green Bay Mike &amp; Key Club (K9EAM)</a>	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)