

Lakeshore Radio Association August 2026 Newsletter



138 Active members

New member:

[Collin J Kreklow](#)

W9BSD

2026-07-28

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:

LRA Hamfest next week (Aug 8)

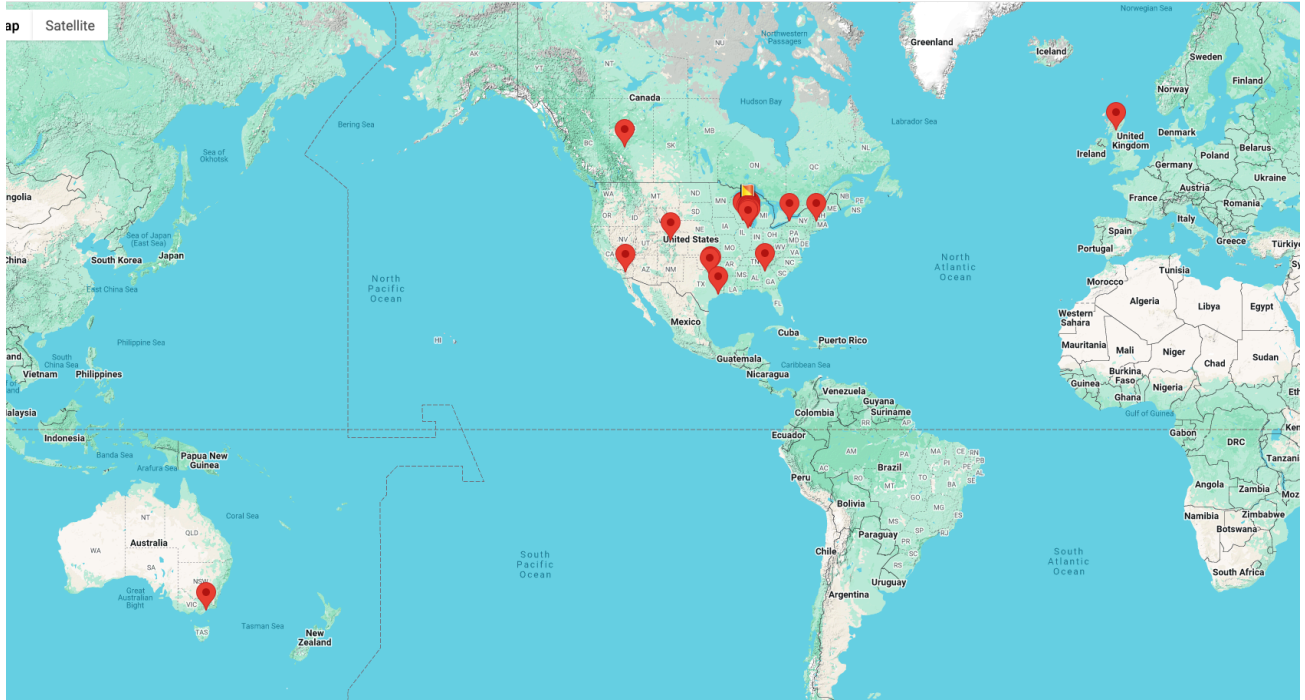
Volunteers needed. Contact Kevin, KB9LLV or Dwayne, N9PYA

Exhibits should begin setup at 6:30am and be ready for visitors at 8:00am
Volunteers for setup needed at 6:00am or earlier.

A growing global Ham Radio Club: Lakeshore Radio Association

We're just getting started! With 138 active members on 3 continents, our International footprint is expanding. So is our domestic footprint with members all across North America. Our Happy Hour and Megacycle efforts have been paying off.

Next up is our new Hamfest "The Ham Radio Experience" on August 8 where we'll be introducing and demonstrating different aspects of Ham Radio. It won't be your Father's old swapfest. Make sure you sign up with Kevin, KB9LLV. He needs a lot of helpers to pull this off.



Lakeshore
RADIO ASSOCIATION

KR9RK W9UDU

Serving Wisconsin since 1947

President, Dwayne, N9PYA

No Report

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Vice President, Fred, K9SO

It's not too late to join our exhibits at the "Ham Radio Experience" next Saturday, August 8. Set up a table indoors to showcase your favorite ham

radio experiences.

Secretary Matt, AF9Q

Matt has been very busy at work these days but he still manages to take time for support. He's been out updating the Raymond site and making needed repairs several times. Currently, he's working on a new revamped website for KR9RK.COM along with Greg, W9GTH. It's going to be wonderful so watch for it next month.

Treasurer, Rick, KC9UJO

Rick has taken on the burden of worrying about and safeguarding our club funds. He's always looking for new fundraising ideas. Over \$120 in donations paid for all of our Taste of Field Day expenses. Thank you to those donors! On top of that, Rick raised almost \$150 in sales with this Raspberry PI promotional idea:

Yes, buy a PI at a discounted price and enjoy a slice of homemade pie on us!

Rick has gone out to Raymond and marked the site for the guy anchors to be installed for our new tower. Still waiting for permitting.

Thank you Rick,

Megacycle Group



The Megacycle group has been the main driver of new members this year.

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](#) 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.

37 Active Megacycle Group Members and growing!

Repeater Group



Our Union Grove receiver site (2m receiver) has gone off the air as of July 18 for water tower maintenance and painting. We have renewed permission to set up again after painting is completed. This will be later this year or next Spring.

We will have to replace all antennas and feedlines (they were over 30 years old) so there will be substantial expenses involved when rebuilding.

Member Highlights



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

Jeff and I do a lot of projects together, but our latest collaboration had a third partner: AI.

We built a Lap Counter / Race Controller for my Carrera slot car set. After picking out the display and buttons, Jeff laid out an enclosure using his commercial Fusion CAD system.

In parallel, I gave a brief verbal description of the box to ChatGPT. It instantly generated the actual .STL files needed for 3D printing. Side by side, Jeff's box and "my" box were nearly identical.

As always, I handled the electronics and software definition. I fed my project specs into ChatGPT, and in minutes, it generated 1,700 lines of flawless code.

In the short term, this is a massive game-changer for makers who, like me, have always been limited by the physical ability to modify and drill project boxes.

In the long term? This capability is really scary.

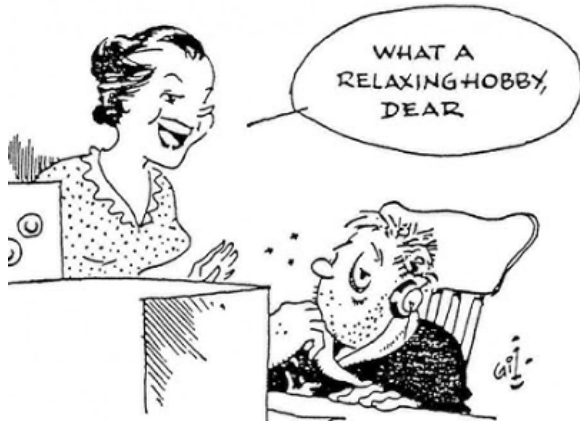


I designed and donated 60 new vinyl weatherproof Happy Hour stickers and 60 new member stickers. These all sold well at the Christmas party. A few are still left (3 for \$10). Contact me at VP@KR9RK.COM. I also donated stickers for the "MEMBER" logo I designed for the club last year. This design (shown 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:





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

10-10 International SSB contests starts Saturday, Aug 1

Events & Activities



Our next scheduled event is the First Annual LRA HAMFEST we're calling the "Ham Radio Experience". August 8 from 7-12 at the Racine Kennel Club. Volunteers needed at 6:00am.

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](#)

It's not too early to start working on your presentation. Show off!

From Tim, K9RZL:

Looking for something fun to do this weekend? It's that time of the year again!! The Racine & Kenosha ARES/RACES communications trailer will be on full display to the public at the Racine County Fair in Union Grove, WI 19805 Durand Ave which starts today Jul 29th and goes till Sunday Aug 2nd.

The trailer is located using the Gate 4 entrance and directly across from the Fair Office. Just look for all the antennas!!

Bring your families, stop by and say Hi, and make some HF contacts in the trailer if you like. We will also have demonstrations to the public of the Megacycle HF Club Radio.

Our Club President Dwayne N9PYA will be joining us on Sunday.

Plenty of Food Vendors, Adult Beverages, Carnival Rides, Truck and Tractor Pulls, and of course the popular Demolition Derby on Sunday.

Tickets for the fair are:

Adults [14 - 61 years old] - \$12

Seniors [62 years & older] - \$9

Juniors [8 - 13 years old] - \$7

Children [7 years & younger] - FREE

Bring 3 non-perishable food items and receive half one adult admission 8 am - 5 pm on Wednesday, July 29!

Marrio , K9GLK, dressed up his dog Barley for an occasion.



From **Mike, WW9X:** "I usually operate at the Wind Point Lighthouse for [International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend](#) . This year it will be August 15 and 16, but it is going to be too complicated for me to actually set up there. Instead, since my house is only 500 Ft from the lighthouse property line, I'm just going to use my home station this year.

In the past many of you have come out to visit and help me, but I'm not going to need any company or assistance this time. Operating times and modes to be published later."

Mike WW9X

WW9X

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE & LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

WIND POINT, WISCONSIN - US0206

MIKE GASPERI

473 WINDRIDGE DR, RACINE, WI 53402 USA

Jeff, KC9JOB, printed up hundreds of buttons, tokens, and coasters to promote the “Experience” hamfest. These were handed out to the “Taste of Field Day” participants and will be available at the July quarterly meeting. Get yours!



LRA Summer Picnic

LRA's Summer Picnic is Sunday, September 13 at old Settlers Park in Union Grove. A little later in the season this year, but we needed to schedule around Pete and Heather for availability. What's an LRA picnic without them??? Contact Kevin, KB9LLV for details.



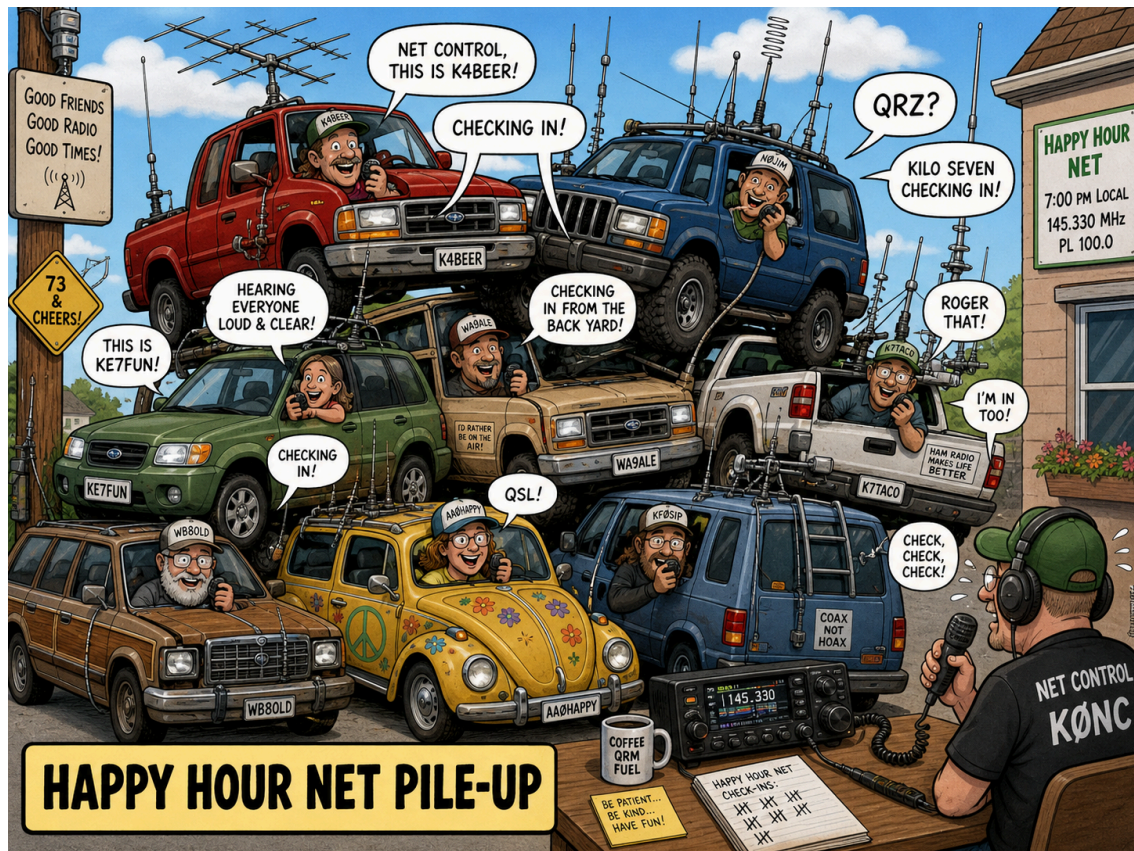
Every Saturday, many members meet at The Meadows Restaurant in Franksville at 8:00am for an unofficial gathering.



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.

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.

Bruce, K9WBT and Rich, KC9UJO earned their “Master of Moderation” award at the quarterly membership meeting for moderating over 100 HH net sessions. Congratulations guys!



Bill, KD1Z has checked in to the HH un-net so many times, Mike, WW9X had to come up with a special “Bi-Millennium Award” for over 2000 check-ins. Congratulations Bill.



The Lighter Side









What you “NEED” Dept.



What YOU Need to avoid being “that guy” on the repeater

Pause before transmitting, ID properly, leave gaps, avoid kerchunking, and remember that your microphone is not a podcast studio.

What YOU Need for portable HF

Radio, battery, antenna, coax, tuner if needed, logging method, weather plan, and a backup plan for when the tree refuses to cooperate.

What YOU Need before blaming the repeater

Check your tone, offset, power level, antenna connection, battery, and whether you are actually transmitting on the repeater input.

What YOU Need for net check-ins

Call sign, name, location, short comment, patience, and the understanding that net control is herding cats with RF.

What YOU Need: the one cable you should label today

Power leads, coax jumpers, USB cables, mic cables, rotor cables. “Future you is not as smart as present you thinks he is.”

What YOU Need: a known-good test kit

One known-good coax jumper, one known-good mic, one known-good power supply or battery, one dummy load. This is the difference between troubleshooting and conducting a séance.

What YOU Need in your go-bag

HT, charger, spare battery, speaker mic, notepad, pencil, adapter cables, power bank, printed repeater list, and the one connector you forgot last time.

What YOU Need to bring to a club work day

Gloves, basic tools, label maker, zip ties, tape, multimeter, safety glasses, and the wisdom not to stand under the tower.

What YOU Need: microphone discipline

Speak across the mic, don't eat it, don't whisper, don't overdrive, and don't ask for audio reports from your best friend unless he's willing to hurt your feelings.

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. You lug it away!



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

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>

Information courtesy Kirk (K9MSG)