

Lakeshore Radio Association



July 2026 Newsletter

Member Statistics:

Active Members: 137 and still growing

New members this month:

Tim: KC9WCJ

Alex: KD9MGA

Aaron: WI9X

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From the Board



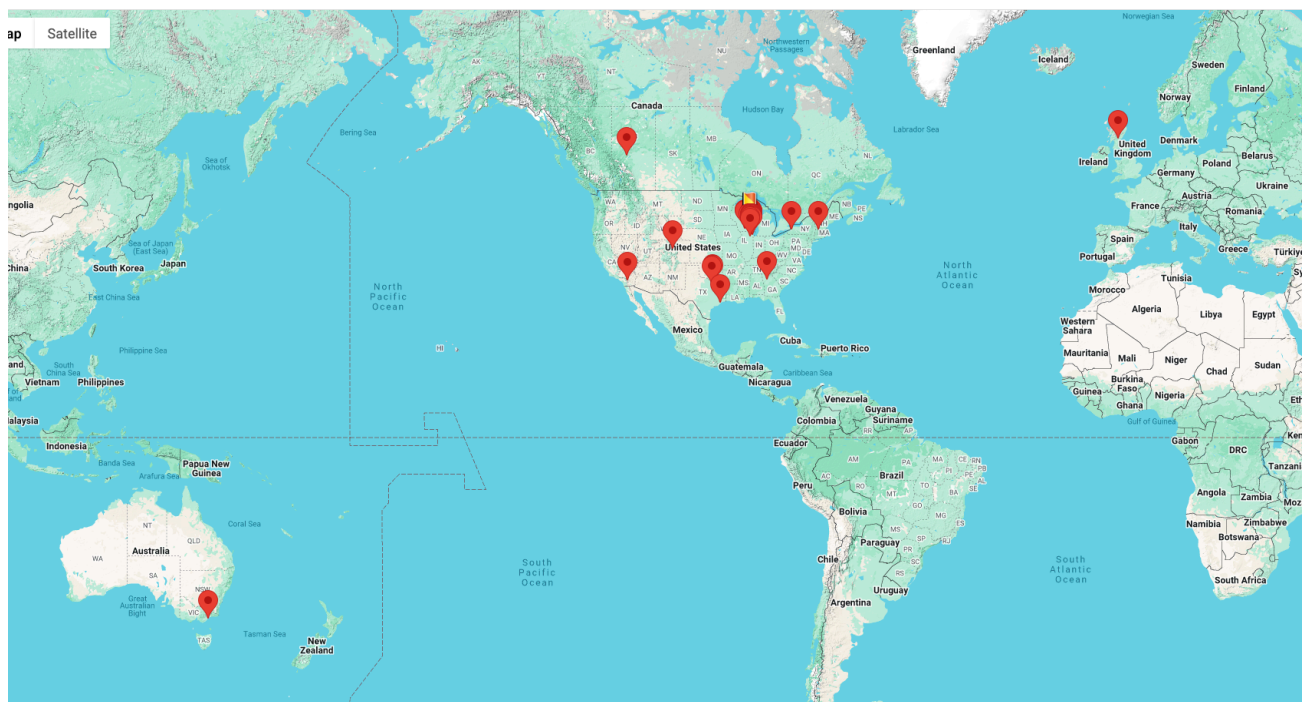
News:

- **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 survey has been sent out to all members. Be sure to record your opinion.**
- **The informal meetings would be held at local restaurants and would require minimum planning other than whomever may make a presentation for the month.**
- **LRA's "Taste of Field Day" event was held at Richard Bong State Park on Saturday, June 27. We had wonderful weather and great fun. Thanks to all who participated and to our Events Director Kevin, KB9LLV**

A growing global Ham Radio Club: Lakeshore Radio Association

We're just getting started! With 137 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.



Officer's Comments



President, Dwayne, N9PYA

No Report

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Vice President Fred, K9SO

As we continue to grow, our need for volunteers expands along with us.

Start planning our **"HAM RADIO EXPERIENCE"** 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.

I was pleased to have reached a Happy Hour milestone: In May, I moderated my 500th Happy Hour session. What a blast it has been!

Speaking of milestones, I received this certificate of appreciation from the ARRL for 50 continuous years of membership. I'm a big believer in this organization and its important contributions to our frequency allocations.

Certificate of Recognition

*With grateful appreciation,
American Radio Relay League proudly recognizes*

Fred Glenn, K9SO

for achieving 50 years of loyal ARRL membership,

2025



ARRL The National Association for
Amateur Radio®



Rick Roderick K5UR
Rick Roderick, K5UR — ARRL President

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 this 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



WIND DAMAGE: We had to take down the old GAP antenna. We've determined that it was so badly damaged that it cannot be repaired. We will be using the base to install our next HF beam antenna.



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_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 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.

35 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.

A massive remodeling project at the NC home of K9SO was delaying my return to Wisconsin. As of this writing it's 95% complete.

The project is down to the painting so I could get away. I'm back here in Wisconsin, at least for a while.

The weather for our Taste of Field Day event was wonderful. A great turnout with Kevin, KB9LLV doing all the great cooking. Quite the spread.















UPS -us INTERRUPTUS:

I had everything ready for the Taste: I had driven 800 miles to get there and had a wonderful remote setup operating my station at Q-SO Qorners. I had my new UPS that could power everything and before the contest everything worked perfectly! I was 100% emergency power with my 2.5 KW-Hour UPS battery and ready to rumble as class 1E



But then almost like clockwork, it all fell apart. The UPS had been set for a two hour timeout and it shut down. We made the 45 minute round trip drive to reset, but the network was corrupted and the whole weekend was a big operating bust for me.

But I've been gone for 8 months and I still had a blast seeing all my good friends again!

My new outdoor remote switch project has been installed. Low insertion loss through UHF and handles 5KW+. Touch pad controller. Electrical design by K9SO. Mechanical by KC9JOB. Custom PC boards & cases.



Impossible to mount radios in these new cars? I thought so until Jeff surprised me with this 3D printed IC-706 control head mount for my new Kia Sportage. It even rotates out of the way when not in use:



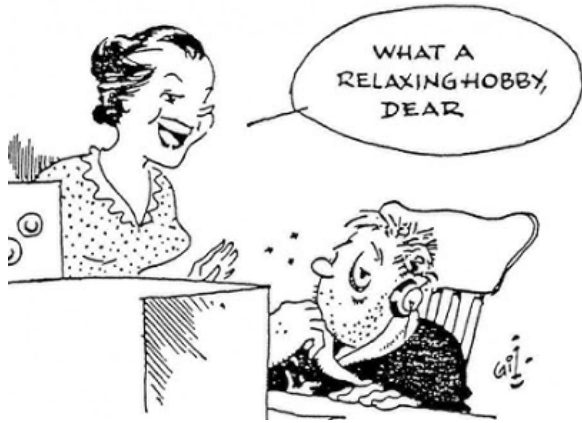
Bruce, K9WBT will be hosting a group refresher on the Megacycle Group's radios. Watch for his announcement. He also had a great demo for the participants of the Taste.

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

A promotional poster for the "13 Colonies Ham Radio Contest". The background is a dark blue starry sky. At the top, the words "UPCOMING CONTESTS" are written in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline. Below this, a grey box contains the date "July 1, 2026" in blue. The central part of the poster features a collage: on the left, a man in a colonial hat sits at a radio console with a microphone; in the middle, the text "13 COLONIES HAM RADIO CONTEST" is written in large white letters, with the tagline "Thirteen Colonies. One Passion. Endless Connections." below it; on the right, a map of the thirteen colonies is shown with each state colored differently. Below the map is a list of the states: NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, CONNECTICUT, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, and GEORGIA. At the bottom of the collage, there are icons for "COMMUNICATE", "CONNECT", and "CELEBRATE HISTORY", along with a "75" anniversary logo for "AMATEUR RADIO". Below the collage, the words "13 Colonies" are written in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline. A grey box below that contains the text "Start time: 13.00". At the bottom, the call sign "WRL" is displayed next to a globe icon.

Starts today!

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.

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!

LAKESHORE RADIO ASSOCIATION
SERVING WISCONSIN SINCE 1947

1st Annual HAM (FEST) AUGUST 8TH 2026
HAM RADIO EXPERIENCE

KR9RK W9UDU
COMMUNICATE • EDUCATE • SUPPORT

LOCATION:
RACINE
KENNEL CLUB

DATE:
AUGUST 8TH
2026

STARTS:
7:00A

COST:
\$5.00 ADULTS,
CHILDREN FREE

SEMINARS:

- MEGACYCLE
- ANTENNA ANALYSIS
- MESH-TASTIC
- SKYWARN

INFO:
EMAIL:
EVENTS.CHAIR@KR9RK.COM

ONE DAY. ONE COMMUNITY. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.
A day for amateur radio operators, hobbyists, and the community to buy, sell, learn, and connect!
Vendors and hobbyists will be able to sell their treasured, slightly used equipment, accessories, and gear!

BUY & SELL
Find great deals or sell your gently used gear! Radios, antennas, parts, accessories, and more.

CONNECT
Meet fellow hams, swap stories, and build relationships that strengthen our hobby.

LEARN
Attend short, informative seminars on topics that matter to our amateur radio community.

GET INVOLVED
Discover club activities, volunteer opportunities, and ways to serve our community.

FEATURED SEMINARS INCLUDE:

- SkyWarn Weather Spotting**
Be the eyes and ears for your community!
- Club Activities & Events**
See what LRA is doing and how you can get involved!
- Emergency Communications**
Prepared. Connected. Ready when it matters.
- Operating Tips & Best Practices**
Sharpen your skills and get more out of your radio!

★ OUR GOAL ★
To make the Ham (Fest) Radio Experience the GOTD event of the year for **SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN!**

Whether you're a seasoned operator, a newly licensed ham, or just curious about the hobby—
there's something here for you!

COME FOR THE EQUIPMENT. STAY FOR THE KNOWLEDGE. LEAVE WITH NEW CONNECTIONS!

SERVING WISCONSIN SINCE 1947 ★ KR9RK ★ W9UDU ★ [f](#) [globe](#) [lakershoreradio.org](#)

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.



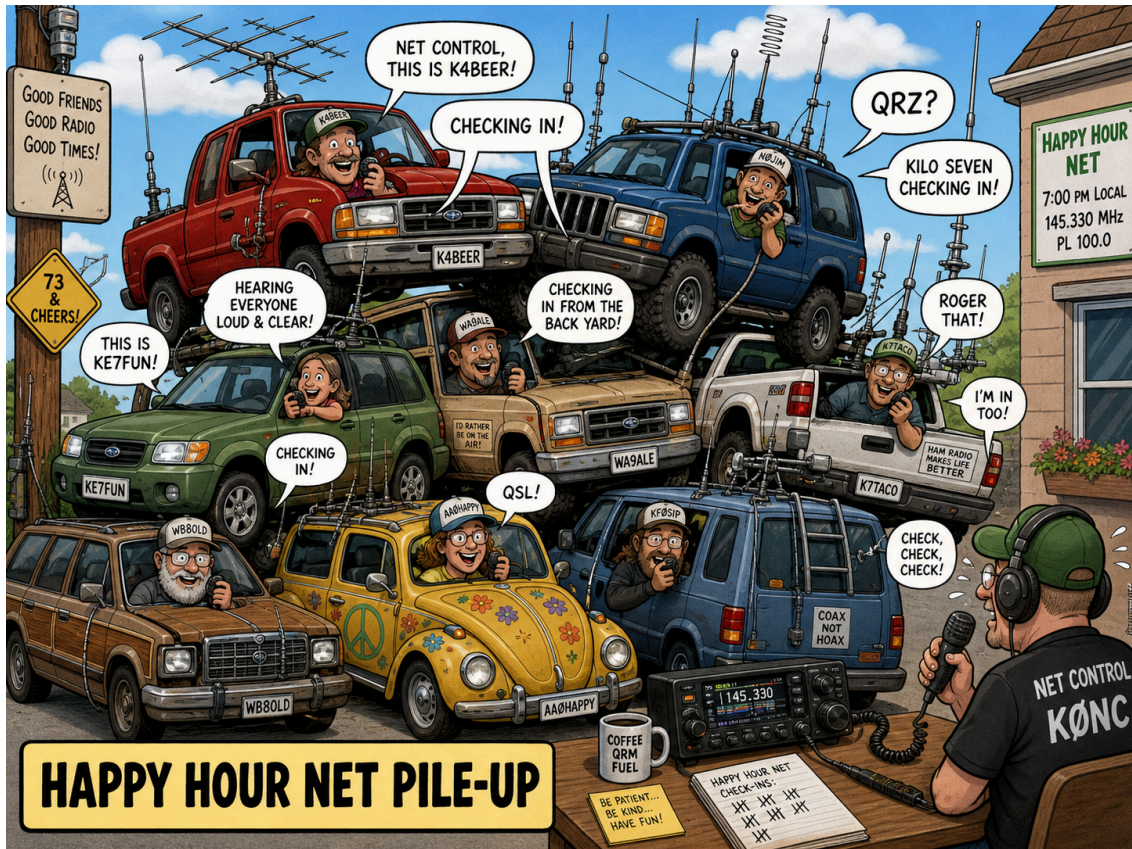
Every Saturday, many members meet at The Meadows Restaurant in Franksville at 8:00am for an unofficial gathering.



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.

The Lighter Side



Hamfest Fitness Program





It wasn't the antenna we designed, but the SWR says it has opinions.





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)