



Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

KR9RK.ORG / KR9RK.COM

Newsletter: October 1, 2024

120 Members Strong!

This month we welcome our newest members:
Donald, WD9EFT, Doug, N9XI, and Mike, KE9EWT

This sets yet another new membership record for the LRA growing significantly larger than we were even back in the days when autopatch was the big club membership draw.





From the board

Contact the board members via email at Board@KR9RK.COM

Be sure to attend the October meeting: President and Treasurer positions are up for election. If anyone is interested in running for these LRA officer positions please contact the Secretary Matt, AF9Q before October 1.

The board authorized a \$300 expenditure to pick up a used Motorola repeater that will act as a backup for any of our existing systems. **Kevin, N9OIG**, our technical director, is now in possession of this equipment and it is in great condition ready for service.

A \$100 expenditure was also authorized to procure a better LCD projector for use at our quarterly meetings. We hope to have this ready for our October 29th meeting later this month.

Our new Walworth receive site for the 442.000 repeater has been providing much needed western area receive coverage. You may access this site by switching to a 114.8 PL. This is linked into our main site full time via Allstar.

Full time RF access to LRA's 442.000 wide area repeater is also available in the Burlington area and is available via the 442.850 (88.5) repeater operated and owned by **Robin, WB9COW**. He also provides Echolink access (check with Robin for details). Use this site for handheld radio access when visiting the famous Fred's Burgers in Burlington.

Dave, NP2I, will head our committee for organizing this year's Christmas party. Stay tuned for details.



... to Support the LRA Activities

At the last membership meeting , President Dwayne announced that we have formed a bi-weekly “volunteers forum” meeting call on GoogleMeets that will consist of any and all LRA volunteers. But volunteers only. To qualify for joining this call, members must volunteer for SOMETHING... . ANYTHING AT ALL. This will not be a formal meeting, but only a very informal discussion group. If you feel left out of the “inner circle of club management”, try volunteering for something and participating in LRA’s activities.

Quarterly Meeting Presentations:

I made a “FredTalk” presentation on grounding and lightning protection at the July membership meeting. Our projector was inadequate for the room (it will be replaced) and the slides couldn’t be seen clearly so I’m posting a link to the presentations here for those that missed it:



Link to: [Lightning Protection Presentation](#)

Our October meeting will be led off by a MESHTASTIC presentation by **Bruce, K9WBT**, **Brad, K9WNG**, and **Jason, K9QKL**. You won’t want to miss this one! Presentation links will be available in our November newsletter as well as at KR9RK.ORG.

Presentation slots are filling up fast. **Bernie, N9AZA** will lead off the January meeting with an update presentation on SKYWARN. **Craig, KC9UQE** will make a presentation on COMMON MODE currents at our March meeting.

If you have something to share with the group, and would like to present, please contact Dwayne, Matt, or me.

Quarterly Membership Meeting



NEW HOURS! **NEW LOCATION!**

Our quarterly open membership meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the first month of each quarter. (January, April, July, and October). The next will be Tuesday, October 29 and it will be held at our **new YMCA location** in Mt. Pleasant. Doors will open at 6:30pm and **a tech talk (if any) will begin at 6:45 sharp. Please note the change in starting time and location.** **YMCA Meeting Room at 8501 Campus Drive, Mt Pleasant, WI 53406.** Enter at the main entrance and check in with the front desk.

Officer Elections:

The positions of President and Treasurer are up for election at the October membership meeting. Per LRA bylaws, only members **physically present** and in good standing for more than 30 days may vote. Proxy, remote, or mail-in voting is not allowed. Nominations for the offices of President and Treasurer must be submitted in writing to the Secretary no later than October 1.

Both President **Dwayne, N9PYA** and Treasurer **Rick, KC9UJO** have indicated their willingness to serve in their positions for another 2 years.



LRA Member Activities:

Foxhunts



The August Foxhunt was a lot of fun.

The next one will be on the second Saturday of October (10/12/2024). We are meeting for breakfast at Meadows Family Restaurant in Franksville at 8am. Fox leaves to hide at 9am. The hunt starts at 10 and ends at noon. Transmitter frequency and other details will be provided directly before the hunt. Let's start giving this activity a try. Contact **Matt, AF9Q** for more information.



Bernie, N9AZA, is our SKYWARN coordinator for the LRA. Summer is here and Bernie's already called the weather spotter net into operation. Be sure to join him.

Supporting Bernie on our SKYWARN committee is Steve, N9SEB, Rick, KC9UJO, and Dwayne, N9PYA.

The SKYWARN network is designed as a "liaison net" during severe weather operations, serving as a collection point where local spotter networks (operating on their local repeaters and frequencies) can collect and relay reports and information to the NWS in Norman. The local net control stations gather information from individual spotters and relay that information to the NWS via the liaison net.

Happy Hour, LRA Style



The “UN-NET” is hatching many more “Chickens” almost every day. **A new record** was set in April when K9SO, as moderator, logged in 61 participants blasting away at the old record of 54. We’re rapidly approaching the 40,000 check-in mark.

This unusual “Un-Net” is gathering continent-wide attention and without a doubt has been one of the big reasons for our club’s phenomenal success this past couple of years.

It has been a highly successful way new hams have introduced themselves to the locals and dozens of new hams have recorded the Happy Hour as their very first QSO.

Going on its 4th year, this is a fun, largely unstructured but moderated “Un-Net” where the moderator writes the often crazy rules. Check in **every day** after work with your call sign and share your happy thoughts. It’s strangely addictive.

This group meets daily on both the LRA 442.000 and 147.240 Allstar linked repeaters at 5:00pm sharp and lasts for about an hour. Be prepared to share your happy thoughts for the day. It is moderated regularly by **K9SO, K9WBT, KC9UJO, N9PYA, and KD1Z**. Lately, **Robin, WB9COW, Craig, KD9UQE, Kevin, KB9LLV, Bernie, N9AZA, Mike, K9MWG**, and even **Derrick, VE5SD** from Saskatoon have been moderating too.

Repeaters from Maine, Saskatoon, Milwaukee, Burlington, and others regularly link in to us. If you’re out of radio range, log in via Allstar nodes 511680 and 511681. WB9COW/R has Echolink connections too.

The beautiful FAT SQUIRREL certificate, courtesy of **Dave, NP2I**, is awarded for 100 HH check-ins and there are 90 of them decorating hamshack walls as of today. Four more recipients this month. Millennial awards for over 1000 check-ins have been awarded to 6 participants already with two more joining the Millennial club soon.

ARES/RACES AND LRA PUBLIC SERVICE NET.



Join us every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm on our 2 meter repeater for an ARES/RACES net followed by public service announcements. Please visit [[ARES/RACES website](#)] for more information on how to become involved and serve the community.

Saturday Breakfast



Many of our members meet for an informal breakfast every Saturday morning at 8:00am at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville. Everyone is welcome.



Happy Hour Email Group on Groups.IO



We have a happy hour email reflector (“the forum”) on Groups.IO now. Dozens of interesting posts last month. Join in the conversation by clicking on the link below now! You won’t get spammed as you can opt to receive only one summary email per day. Get an invite here: [[LRA Happy Hour Net](#)] or send me an email requesting an invite to VP@KR9RK.COM

Lakes Area Amateur Radio Club (L.A.A.R.C.) in Elkhorn

We have several LRA members who are also members of the LAARC group out of Elkhorn, Wi. When out west, give their repeaters a try:

146.865 MHz 127.3 PL (WI9ELK Repeater)
443.700 MHz 123.0 PL (N9ZXP Repeater)

They posted this update on their new VHF repeater site in this month’s newsletter:

“N9BBG, Tom K, gave an update on the status of the new location for the repeater. Said that the antenna and feedlines are all installed. The building has nothing in it yet. The county wants all of their equipment installed and functioning prior to us installing our repeater cabinet. “



Member Activities

It's a hot one! Michael, KM6RRS lives in Palm Desert, California and is our most distant regular club member. He posted this picture showing 120.5 degrees on his shaded front porch last week:



Bernie, N9AZA and Craig, KC9UQE helped **Rick, KC9UJO** install a new Mosley TA-33 triband beam on his new tower. Here is a picture of Bernie and Rick up in the bucket lift.



... and **Rick, KC9UJO** was caught carefully supervising **Craig, KC9UQE** during assembly. He must have done a good job since Rick is reporting outstanding results.



Bernie, N9AZA also put up his own tower this month cleverly attaching a tilt-over motor to a house bracket:



Don, N0EBB who is a regular HH check-in from Missouri sent me another “fat” squirrel picture. The rascals go inside his bird feeder. They managed to get out though:



Fred, K9SO/4

I survived Helene here in North Carolina. Even though it was almost 200 miles away, it was a massive storm and the devastation in western NC and elsewhere was huge. You have to remember we're hundreds of miles inland. Still, entire towns like Asheville were completely surrounded by closed roads for a few days with helicopters the only way in. It has been called the worst storm to EVER hit the area. I lost a big 60 foot tall pine tree that clipped the edge of my neighbor's lakefront gazebo as it fell down. One of my security cameras caught the fall on video: [Tree falling at Q-SO Qorners II in NC](#)

It wasn't very windy at the time and I thought the worst was over, but a sudden, strong gust of wind came up and took it out. Maybe 8.5" of rain helped. Others upstream had it much worse. The tall tree on the left is my dipole support and my antennas survived! I was lucky.



All non-emergency vehicular traffic on any road west of I-77 in western NC is still forbidden as I write this newsletter (Sept 30). Quite the mess just west of me.

Doug, N9FTG, found an old MAD MAGAZINE poster in his archives and took it to a local sign shop. Considering all the angst over the upcoming election, he may be supporting a winner:



Fred, N9AST, just received his new e-bike and we caught him on the trails enjoying the wonderful SE Wisconsin weather this weekend. I wonder when the antennas go on?

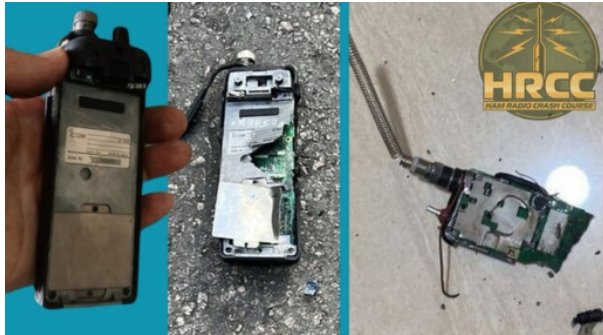


Bruce, K9WBT, has been leading a local Winlink Wednesday Radio Email activity. There has been growing participation lately with a record turnout last week. Catch Bruce on the air or anyone on the daily Happy Hour Un-Net. Bruce moderates on Thursdays. What's it all about? Check out Winlink here [[Winlink](#)].

In order of appearance on September 18:

W0JT, WB9COW, KC9HYY, W09B, KD9SSY, WX9EMS, W9AFB, K9MWG, K7EDM, KC9UJO, N9FSE, and K9WBT (NCS)

Bill, KD1Z, posted this picture of an exploded ICOM hand-held radio used in the Hezbollah attack last month. Be careful how you charge those radios!



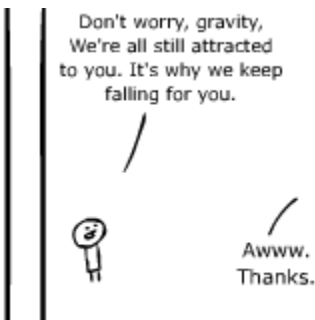
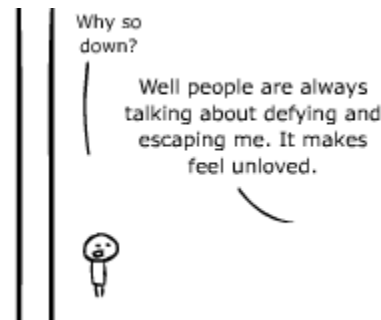
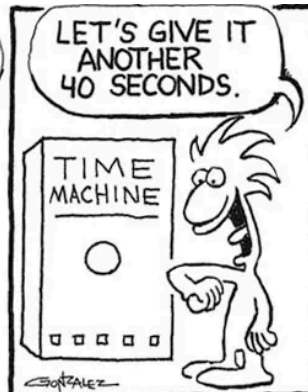
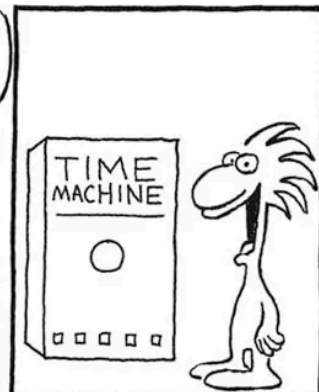
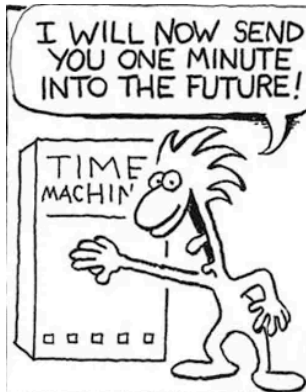
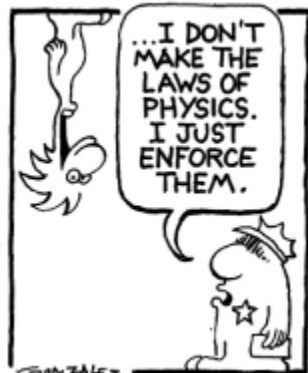
Mike, WW9X, got competitive for that elusive #2 spot during HH check-ins and built himself a more competitive “2m Slim Jim” antenna for his handheld radio:



Gene, KB9ZKY, is administering the ham radio estate of Bob, KB9ZAF. Check out the equipment list on the HH forum.

Physics Comics

Classical Mechanics
Motion, Force, Energy



Contesting/Operating Corner



Visit the contest calendar to see what's cookin' this weekend:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

No major contests in October:

TBD Collegiate QSO Party

19-20 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz

21-25 School Club Roundup

Join ARRL and subscribe to the Contest Update postings.

Every CW Operator's "fist" is Unique:



THE NIBBLER



THE TEA DRINKER



THE SLAPPER



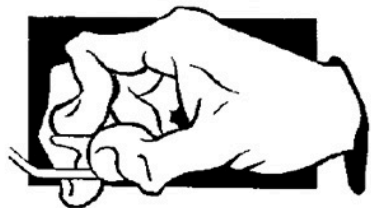
THE HITCH HIKER



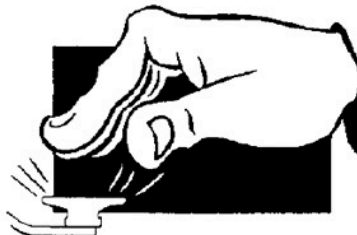
THE TAPPER



THE JITTER



THE CLUTCHER



THE POUNDER

Did You Know:

... that

Ham radio operators are allocated 26 bands of radio frequencies, ranging from 1.8 Megahertz to 275 Gigahertz. The band used determines how far the operator can communicate, from across town to around the world or to satellites in space.

... that

Les Hamilton (GM3ITN) was a Scottish **ham radio operator** who first alerted the British government that the Falkland Islands had been invaded by Argentina. During the occupation he was the only person in Britain to be in regular radio contact with the islanders.

that...

Marlon Brando, one of the best actors in history, was a licensed radio amateur, with the callsign FO5GJ.

that...

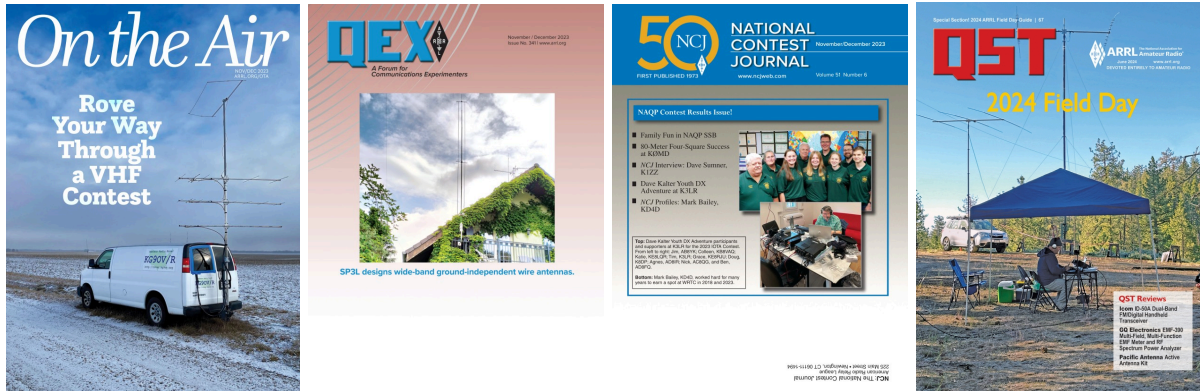
the top 5 best-selling handheld radios in 2024 were:

- Baofeng BF-F8HP.
- Yaesu FT-65.
- D-STAR/Icom ID-52.
- DMR - Anytone 878.
- Fusion - Yaesu Options.

that ...

Every CW operator sends in a slightly different way, often identifiable like a fingerprint. Their individual technique is called their "fist". Sometimes good, sometimes bad. Bad senders are identified by the made-up "Q" signal "**QLF**", meaning he sounds like he is sending with his Left Foot.

ARRL Publications (all 4 come with membership):



Join the ARRL today! [Join here now!](#)

Ham Radio stuff:

So you want to be a HAM?

Ham radio has a legacy of over 100 years. Learn about the legacy and the “private” Ham Radio jargon to impress your fellow Amateurs. **Charlie, K2OC** (my brother) sent me the following link leading to an excerpt from a book. It’s a fairly long read, but very interesting and worthwhile: [Ham Radio Culture](#)

... also, regarding the history of our very own “MIA” committee:

In the early 1940s, wireless hobbyists trying to change their image from tinkering pranksters to upstanding citizens volunteered to help the FCC track down unlicensed operators. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) spoke of lending assistance with enforcement as a tactic to keep hams on good terms with regulators. When the FCC caught a notorious “unlicensed punk” in 1941, the ARRL chided members for not having found him and called for improved “policing” within the hobby. The League reasoned that “our interests require that we show no tolerance either to bootleggers or to violators of the FCC’s special orders.” Defense of community boundaries further motivated hams to turn in illegal operators. Monthly club bulletins offered a timely format for calling attention to mischievous on-air behavior. The newsletter of the Northern California DX Club, for instance, exposed an operator suspected of using false credentials after confirmation cards a member sent to him had been returned marked “addressee unknown.” **Joining together in this way to ostracize rule-breakers from the on-air community increased solidarity among upstanding wireless operators.**

Stuff You Need (?) Department:

Baofeng has a new 10w dual band handheld radio. It's been out for a while, but now the price is just \$55 on Amazon [HERE](#). But read the reviews first before you buy. They may not actually do 10 watts.



Click image to open expanded view



Ham Radio Stuff is selling a Go-box based on the FT-991A including a Windows 11 computer with a 7" LCD screen. Just \$4300. Perhaps you can build better, but this one includes a 100w solar panel.



This area was intentionally left blank because I didn't have anything else to say 😊

Thanks to our growing list of newsletter contributors! Make sure you post your activities on the HH forum or send them to me at VP@KR9RK.COM. Pictures say it best! Don't forget to send me a picture of your QSL cards.

I've started a swap meet section of the newsletter in the appendix below and it works! Send me pictures and details of what treasures you may want to sell.

Next month, send me some pictures of the "Go Box" you created.

73, Fred, K9SO

VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

VP@kr9rk.com

APPENDIX I, upcoming hamfests:

October 19, 2024 – Hidden Valley ARC 1st Annual Hamfest Location: Lancaster, WI Sponsor: Hidden Valley Amateur Radio Club Website: Not Provided

November 2, 2024 – ARES Conference / State Convention Location: Wisconsin Rapids, WI Sponsor: Numerous Website: <https://wi-arrrl.org/events/>

Appendix II

LRA Freefest: Presented for informational purposes only. The LRA assumes no responsibility for accuracy or suitability of purpose and makes no warranty of any kind.

 In-Stock  Free Shipping!



AMERITRON ALS-1306
Linear Amplifier 1200 Watts HF + 6 Meters
Solid State RF Deck - ARI-500 Built In
HRO Discount Price: \$3,998.95*

[Buy It](#)

*After Coupons & Promotions.

[Post](#) [Save](#) [Add To Wish List](#)

My pre-MFJ 1306 is for sale for \$2900 K9SO. It's in NC so let me know before I return.

Gene, KB9ZAF, is administering the ham radio estate of Bob, KB9ZAF. Check out the equipment list on the HH forum.