



UNDERLINED TEXT IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE LINKS TO OTHER SITES

Newsletter: April 1, 2025

Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.

[KR9RK.ORG](http://KR9RK.ORG) / [KR9RK.COM](http://KR9RK.COM)

Memberships spanning 3 countries! 113 active members and still growing!

This month we welcome:

Michael R Lea W9MRL: Joined 2025-03-07

Thomas D Craner KD6KHK: Joined 2025-03-14

Christopher R Bork KC9MKL: Joined 2025-03-24

SPECIAL: April 1 launch of new CW implement:



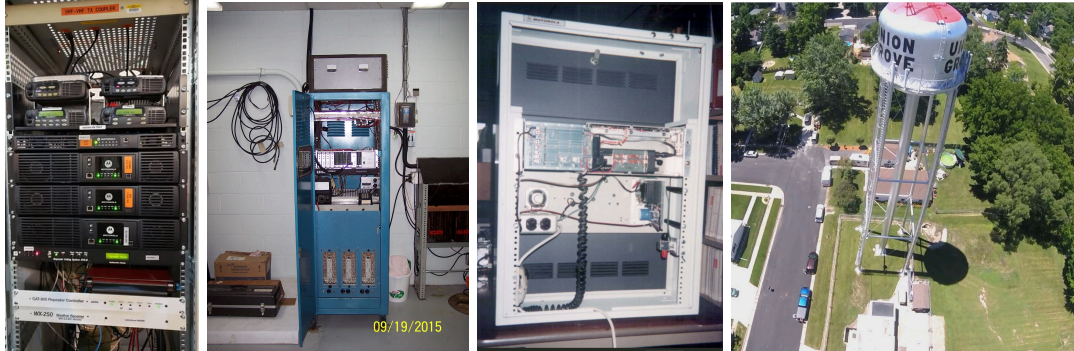
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Don't try this at work:



piece of opaque tape over the lazer on everyones mouse. IT was pretty angry, I need to take that one to the grave with me.

## Historic KR9RK Pictures



## From the board

Contact the board members via email at [Board@KR9RK.COM](mailto:Board@KR9RK.COM)

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. (Still listen to main TX site) This is linked into our main site full time via Allstar.

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# *Lakeshore Repeater Assoc.*

## *Upcoming Activities*

*Hello everyone! I am happy to let you all know that we are going to have several fun events for you to enjoy this year. Our first activity will be a HAM Radio demonstration table at the Racine YMCA Kids day on April 24th from 12 to 4 PM. As we all know, we need to inspire our youth to do new and wonderful things and HAM Radio is a great opportunity for them to do just that. Volunteers are needed so if you are interested, please email me at the address below.*

*On Saturday June 28th we will be having our Taste of Field Day at Richard Bong Recreation Area. Fred (K9SO) will be managing this event and it is sure to be a fun day. Bring your friends and family and show them how much fun they're missing out on! Operating times are 12 to 5 pm with set up starting at 9 am.*

*Tentatively, August 2nd is our annual summer picnic and it will be at Old Settlers Park (Racine Co Fairgrounds) in Union Grove Wi. We will be starting at 11 am with lunch being served around noon. Please bring a dish to share! If you wish to coordinate a radio related activity to add a bit more fun to the day then please feel free to email me at the address below. Cost is \$25 per person.*

*As many of you know, 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the LRA. We are planning a special operating event weekend with special callsigns and hope to have operators available to sign up for blocks of hours to operate. The tentative weekend for this event is September 19th, 20th and 21st with more info to follow at a later date.*

*Our annual Christmas party will be some time in December with dates and times to be announced at a later time.*

*If you have a radio special event that you would like to arrange for the club to participate in, please email me at the address below.*

*Thanks and 7 3s!!*

*Kevin Aney KB9LLV*

*events.chair@kr9rk.com*

# LRA TASTE of FIELD DAY EVENT:

An expanded "Taste of Field Day" event was authorized for this year with local stations staying on the air longer. The Richard Bong shelter #1 has been reserved for this event once again. Saturday, June 28. Setup begins at 9:00am.

Last full weekend of June, 2025. Contact **K9SO** and/or **KB9LLV** for details. Last year:



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## LRA operating software changes:

Our HamClubsOnLine activation has been completed thanks to **Matt AF9Q**'s efforts. This gives us a strong management tool. You should by now have been receiving some notices.

# KR9RK Remote HF Station: LRA Project North Star Q&A

[Project North Star presentation link](#)

This is a work in progress and membership inputs are welcome. A lot of interest has been expressed and a lot of questions asked. Here are some of the frequently asked questions.

9-acre site in Raymond, Wi. and temporary FlexRadio 8400 test radio with network equipment (on loan).



[Project North Star Q&A](#)

Q. What is Project North Star?

- A. It is a proposed construction project of an LRA owned HF radio station. Project North Star is a project of the Lakeshore Repeater Association whose kickoff was authorized by the LRA board and approved by the LRA membership at the last quarterly meeting. Approvals were preliminary and final approval to begin construction and equipment acquisition will be sought at the April 29 general membership meeting. The project is under the sole control of the LRA and is led by a committee formed by order of the LRA board.

Q. Who is on the LRA committee?

- A. A committee has been formed by order of the President to investigate and promote LRA construction of an exclusive LRA owned HF radio station and network. Members are N9JOS, N9OIG, AF9Q, W9FTG, K9SO, and N9PYA as well as many others who have participated in the discussions.

Q. What is the cost to the LRA?

A. An investment would be required for equipment (radios, power supplies, routers, etc.) which is estimated at \$3000-\$3500. Equipment ownership will be retained by LRA.

Q. Where would the funds come from?

A. Funding will come from the GoFundMe drive authorized by the board that has already raised \$3000 towards implementation. The target is \$4000. These donated funds have come from individual supporters and, ***if applied to purchases of North Star equipment, will increase the net worth of the LRA organization.***

Q. If we decide against building the club HF station, what happens to the donated money?

A. The funds must be applied only to LRA's Project North Star. Otherwise, the money will not be available for LRA use and ***must be refunded.***

Q. What is the LRA commitment?

A. LRA will enter a lease agreement with the property owner for \$1.00/year and agree to share in the actual cost of Internet service and electricity use (LRA share est. to be less than \$600 annually).

Q. What commitments have been made by LRA to date?

A. None. Membership must formally approve the project at the April 29 general meeting.

Q. Will we be using our LRA repeater maintenance funds?

A. No. If we meet our fundraising goal, no LRA treasury funds will be required.

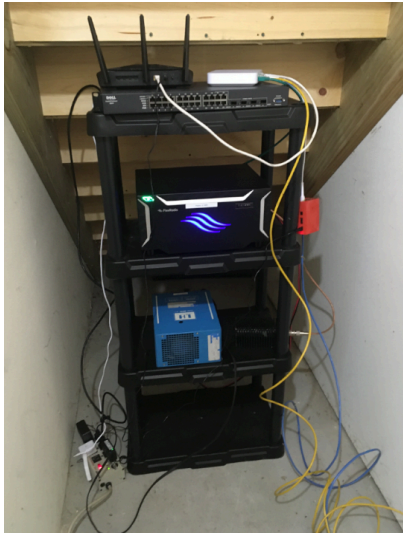
Q. Is this activity within our charter?

A. The board and several members have reviewed the bylaws and have not identified anything that would prevent us from entering into the lease agreement or this activity.

Q. Where does the project stand?

A. Because LRA involvement is not official yet, no final decisions have been made and no permanent network or radio equipment has been installed. But in order to expedite and overcome some anticipated technical hurdles, the committee has already installed loaner radios and borrowed networking equipment at the site for testing purposes.

Temporary radio test equipment at the Raymond location. Flexradio 8400, 85A 12v power supply, managed NW switch, and router.



Q. Will it cost me to participate in this?

A. While participation is optional, user costs are still under discussion and a user fee of \$5-\$10/month is being considered to fund repair maintenance and future equipment expansion. Again, club members would be under no obligation to participate.

Q. Who paid for all the external towers, bases, and antennas already in place?

A. The site owner has installed nearly \$7000 worth of infrastructure including concrete tower bases and Rohn 25 sections, enough to build three 40' towers with 900 feet of LMR400DB coax in buried conduits at his sole expense. Everything would be available for our use under the \$1.00 annual lease agreement including an existing Titan Gap antenna and an on-site TA-33 beam with rotor.

Q. Who will own the radio equipment?

A. Providers of all site equipment will retain individual ownership. Any equipment purchased using GoFundMe donations will become the property of LRA and will immediately increase the value of the LRA assets.

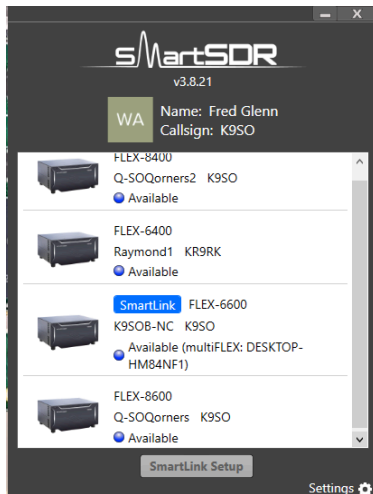
Q. Will the site be Internet secure?

A. Matt, AF9Q, has designed and installed a Wireguard VPN using his own equipment. That will provide state-of-the-art Internet security.



Q. How will I access the radios?

- A. A simple and free Wireguard client program must be installed on all connecting devices. Such devices can be PCs, MACs, tablets, and even cellphones. Following site access, and passing the two-step authorization, users will be able to select and turn on multiple radios as our network expands. Radio selection will be similar to what is seen on other FlexRadio networks:



Q. Will this be too busy?

- A. A single shared radio station may be very active, but adding additional radios and sites will alleviate congestion. We hope to have at least three radios available for participant use by the end of 2025. We already have other site owners lined up that will allow us to operate other stations at other locations from within our network. If congestion is problematic, the technical team can implement user time and connection limits.

Q. How will we monitor the network?

- A. All activity will be automatically logged and identified by registered usernames.

Q. What is the timeline?

- A. If the project is approved, the first station using the existing Titan Gap antenna and a possible secondary station located on the East Coast can be operational within weeks. Towers must still be installed at the site for installation of better antennas. Project donors will probably be given initial beta-testing access until operational testing bugs are identified and fixed. The timeline goal for opening to participating club members is mid-June.

A more detailed explanation, and something you should read if you plan on participating, may be found in this presentation: [Remote Radio](#)

We need you

## ... to Support the LRA Activities Volunteer and [RENEW!](#)

At an earlier 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. 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, April 29** and it will be held at our **new YMCA location** in Mt. Pleasant. Starting time is 6:45 pm central time. We live stream these events if you would like to participate remotely but by LRA bylaws, only participants attending the meeting in person may vote.

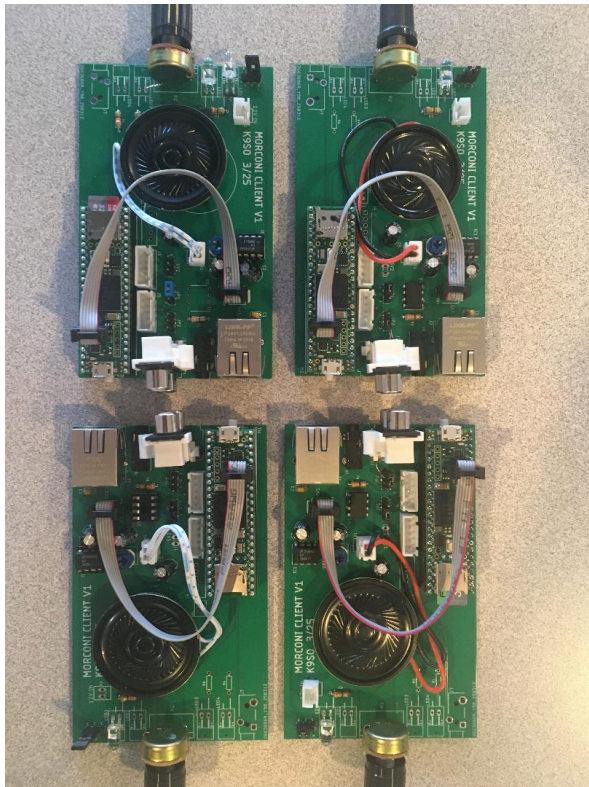
**A special presentation will be made by Craig, KC9UQE on “Common Mode”**



## LRA Member Activities:



**Jeff, KC9JOB** and **Fred, K9SO** have designed a custom PC board to support their MORCONI Internet remote CW paddle Keyer project:



**Ryan, K9NBG**, commented on Project North Star:

*"I was showing off the North Star project and Flex radio stuff to our VP of Infrastructure today (the guy at work that got me into ham radio). He had no idea this kind of technology existed. It was fun showing him all the new technology."*

**Scott, KD9HRA**, commented on the project and posted this about restoring an old SB220 "full gallon" amplifier:

*"That's pretty cool. I am looking forward to the club radio. I think it's great for people that can't set up a big HF setup at their home."*

*On a side note, does anyone have a variac for sale? I am working on a sb220 and want to bring it back up slowly. It was working when I got it but the inside was filthy and the solder joints were pretty bad in spots. I couldn't believe when repairs were done, they left a lot of the old components soldered on one leg. It's coming along great but I'm in no hurry."*



# POTA Campout Planned (KD9QVW):



*"Glenn and I are putting together a POTA camp out at chain o lakes state park the weekend of April 26. We're setting up camp at the honeysuckle campground in the area of site 35. We have three campers so far. We plan on congregating around the site 35 area. We want to have a potluck dinner Saturday around 6pm. All are welcome. Reserve yourself a site if you want to camp. We want to keep it loose and fun. Please join us. Any questions you can email me kd9qvw@... We hope to see you there.*

**Angelo KD9QVW "**

**John, AC90T,** recorded what bad CW sounds like when his POTA battery died:

[https://youtu.be/YJddlnhf4DY?si=haZgRBVJHqr\\_6U4H](https://youtu.be/YJddlnhf4DY?si=haZgRBVJHqr_6U4H)

*"When working POTA the other day, someone I worked was so kind to record my signal and email me the link to the recording. I was getting really bad Tone reports 5. What is interesting is that it sounds horrible in the beginning of the recording but then gets better. My guess is that I had the solar panels connected to the batteries and when the Sun was out, it produced energy improving the signal."*

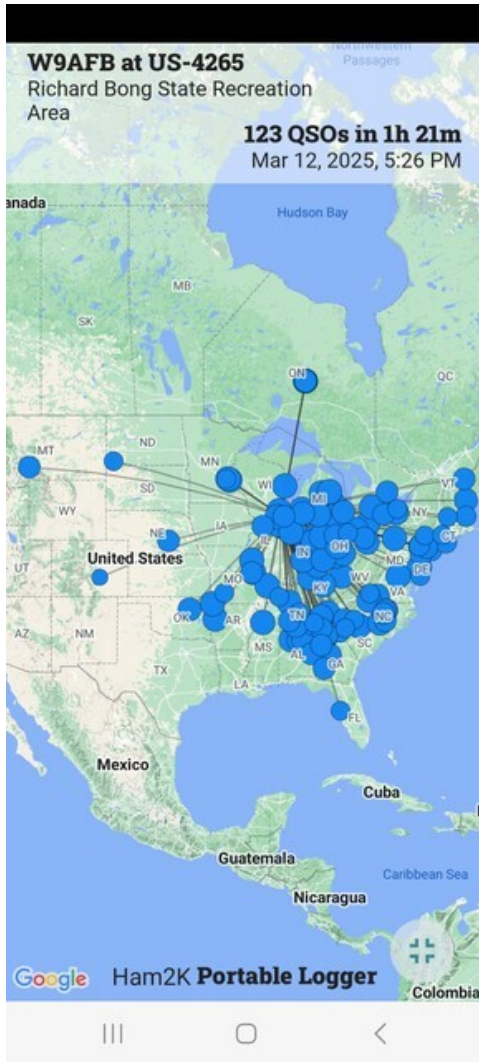
**Mike, K9MWG,** volunteered to take a fresh look at how we record Happy Hour data with a goal of simplification. What he came up with was outstanding! It will be rolled out to all the moderators shortly. Thank you Mike!

Scott, W9AFB worked some exciting Aurora last week:

*"Possible Aurora this evening. Give six meters a listen on SSB and CW. FT8 won't work for Au."*

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/news/g3-strong-geomagnetic-storm-watch-23-mar>

Scott also got a jump on SpringPOTA at Bong State Park. Nice work Scott:





**Bernie, N9AZA**, is our SKYWARN coordinator for the LRA. Summer is finally approaching. Be sure to participate in the practice nets. We've already had two this season.

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

## Happy Hour, LRA Style: our 5th year



It seems we're setting new check-in records every month nowadays. **Jen, K9UET**, made the moderator leader board with an amazing 54 check-ins last week ... and she's just getting started!

**We have a new HH link: KR9RK-R Hams Over IP # 15081**

**Congratulations go out to Paul, KB9JPN, for joining the "Millennial Club" passing the 1000 check-in mark last month.** The Millennial club certificate is awarded to those who have checked into the un-net over 1000 times!

**Mike, K9MWG**, designed a new spreadsheet to record attendance. This will make it a lot easier for moderators. Thank you, Mike!

# **ARES/RACES AND LRA PUBLIC SERVICE NET.**



**From Tom, KA9KJE (SE District Emergency Coordinator):**

**Greetings ARES/RACES and friends**

**As Discussed in our last in person meeting on the 6th of Feb we wanted to explore the possibility of doing more of our nets on the KR9RK repeater. After talking to Dwayne and Fred, they are happy to have us do more nets on the KR9RK Repeater. We are planning to start Next month (March) . Looking for feed back on this ideal. And as always looking for more net controls operators for one or more net dates. We will start out with the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm for now and possibly expand to more days in a month. We will continue to have at least 1 Simplex practice a month to keep our simplex skills going. Also the Wisconsin Marathon is coming up soon and we are looking for volunteers and need to discuss whether we continue using Simplex or KR9RK repeater or both. Thanks and have a great day**

**Tom Burger-KA9KJE Racine / Kenosha Emergency Coordinator, Wisconsin Southeast District Emergency Coordinator**



## 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.



## LRA 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](mailto:VP@KR9RK.COM)

## Project Pages:



[send me pictures of your latest projects!]

Members are encouraged to participate in discussions and watch for Project North Star updates on PROJECT NORTH STAR on groups.io ... search for it on the Groups.io website and sign up!

GoFundMe: support has been amazing with nearly two dozen members and non-members already donating \$3000 towards our \$4000 goal. Donate today at KR9RK.COM to help the club cross the finish line:

**\$3,000 raised**

\$4K goal · 14 donations

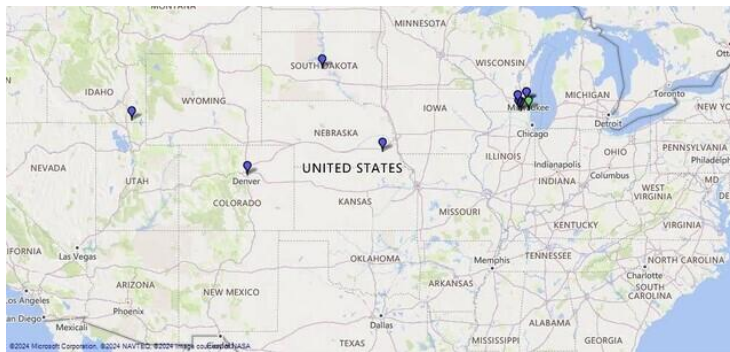


Share

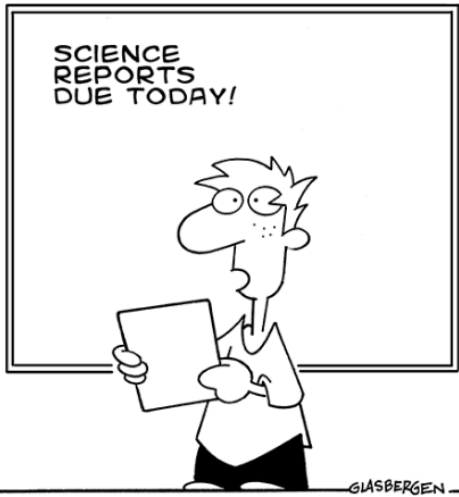
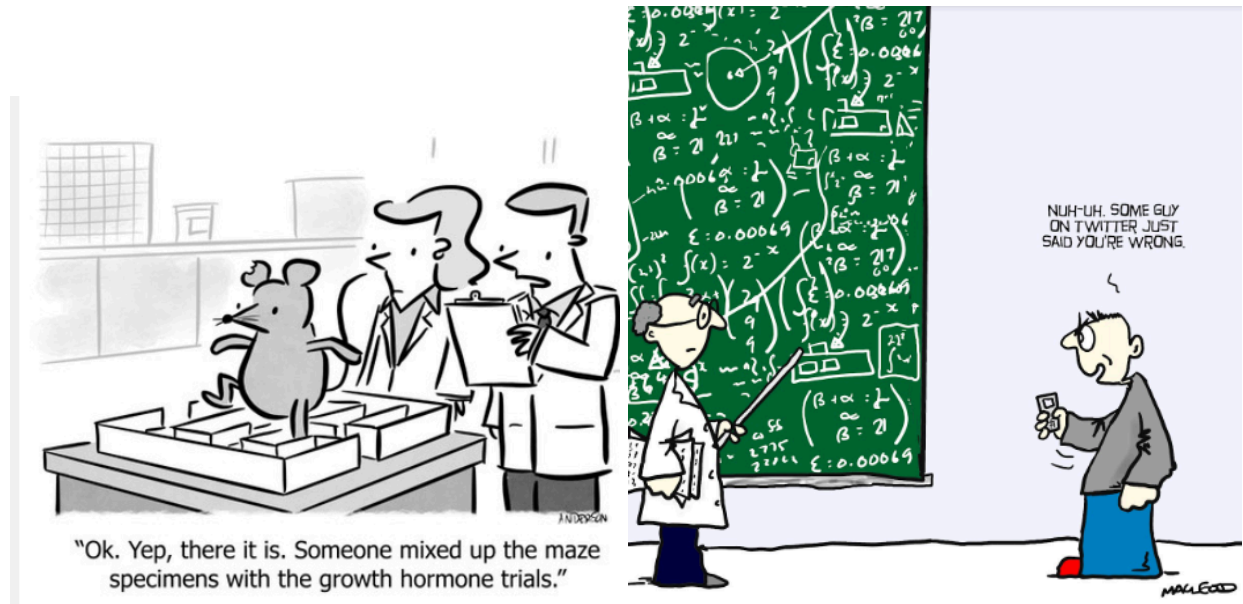
Donate now



**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](#)]. Here's his latest check-in map and growing roster. :



KB9YDK, Dean, South Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, Telnet  
W09B, MJ, New Berlin, Waukesha, WI  
K0WET, Brad, Denver, Denver, CO, VARA FM  
N0EBB, Don, Jackson, MO. You are on the map! :)  
VE6XAD, Chad, Spruce Grove, Alberta, Canada, Vara HF  
KD1Z, Bill, Kenosha, Kenosha, WI, Telnet  
WB9COW, Downtown Burlington, WI. "Livin' the dream".  
W9ABE, Rich Hawthorne, New Berlin, Waukesha, WI, VARA FM.  
W9AFB, Salem, WI. "POCSAG message received". If you want to know more about  
POGCSAG & DAPNET, here's a link: [POCSAG & DAPNET](#)  
K9UET, Jen, Wauconda, IL sent in a weather report. via Telnet.  
K9WNG, Brad, Linn, Walworth, WI, Telnet  
K7EDM, Marc, Preston, Franklin, ID, TelNet  
NU5D, "Routine net checkin - a day late." --I take all of the check-ins!! :)  
K9WBT (NCS)..Bruce, Kenosha, WI, VARA HF (30 minutes for thirteen messages on 80m  
via K9BRM)



"The first human was cloned in 2002. When he found out, he was beside himself."

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# Contesting/Operating Corner



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

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

April 2025

13 **Rookie Roundup – Phone**

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From the ARRL bulletin:

On March 12, 2025, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a Public Notice titled “In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete,” seeking input from the public on FCC rules that may be outdated, unnecessary, or in need of modification. This inquiry is part of the FCC's ongoing effort to alleviate regulatory burdens across various services, including the Amateur Radio Service.

As part of this review, ARRL is conducting a thorough examination of the provisions in Part 97 and related rules that affect amateur radio operators. ARRL's written comments, which will be prepared by our FCC Counsel and the ARRL Executive Committee, will include consideration of feedback we received from members.

ARRL members who want to share comments and concerns about this matter are urged to share your feedback directly with ARRL. Please submit your comments by March 31, 2025

## Did You Know (?) Department?

Ohm's Law states which of the following?

$$P = I V$$

$$E = C R$$

$$V = I R$$

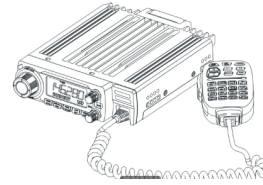
$$P = I R$$



Georg Simon Ohm was a German mathematician and physicist. As a school teacher, Ohm began his research with the new electrochemical cell, invented by Italian scientist Alessandro Volta. [Wikipedia](#)

**Born:** March 16, 1789, [Erlangen, Germany](#)    **Died:** July 6, 1854 (age 65 years), [Munich, Germany](#)

**Did you know that Georg Ohm's original work, when first presented to his peers, was met with skepticism and *resistance*? Funny but true!**



**What you need (?) Department:**

**Ham radio decals:**



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

Share your achievements, activities, and projects with your fellow LRA members! Send me your photos! Post on the HH forum and I'll pick them up.

**73, Fred, K9SO**

**VP, Lakeshore Repeater Association, Inc.**

[VP@kr9rk.com](mailto:VP@kr9rk.com)

This newsletter was written by K9SO at the request of and authorization from the LRA Secretary, AF9Q



# APPENDIX I, upcoming events:

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## DAYTON! The big one is coming in May!

### Get your tickets for the show!

Tickets are available online or at our ticket sales locations only.

We do not accept checks or mail in orders.

So click below the link to purchase your 2025 Hamvention tickets.

[Buy Tickets Online](#)

**Early Bird Discount \$26 thru Feb 28  
\$30 March 1 and later**

A ticket includes:

- Admission to the show for Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- All forums and special speakers in the show
- Prize Drawing

**Once tickets are mailed, they are non-refundable.**



2025 – May 16, 17 & 18

# MARA Hamfest

(NEW) Date set for MARA Hamfest 2025: **April 26, 2025**

**You can reserve vendor space and pre-order tickets now!**

Please go to:

<https://w9hsy.org/2025-madison-hamfest/>

for more information



## 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.

## SOLD: “Life’s too short for QRP”:

 In-Stock

 Free Shipping!

A black Amerttron ALS-1306 Linear Amplifier. The front panel features two analog meters on the left, a central control knob, and several buttons and switches on the right. The text on the front panel includes "AMERTTRON ALS-1306", "Solid State NO TUNE", and "1.2KW 150-400 FET Amplifier".

### AMERTTRON 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**. \$1100 off retail

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No new flea market listings submitted this month