



**Milwaukee
Radio
Amateurs'
Club**



*"The ARRL's oldest
affiliated club"*



HAMATEUR CHATTER

Edited by Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

1st Quarter 2021

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COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS INFLUENCE CLUB MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

The Board of Directors has placed all in-person club meetings and activities during the first half of the year on-hold and opting for alternative gatherings through technology such as video conference via zoom or other providers. We are guided by our sensibilities, the Milwaukee County Public Health Department's guidelines and the wishes of our membership. Please watch our e-newsletter, website, Facebook page, and nets for updates on specific activities. Our list of 2021 activities and events is listed below in another article.

Be safe. Stay healthy.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



After we finished planning our 100th anniversary of ARRL Affiliation in September of 2019, the board thought that 2020 would be easy. I don't think any of us had any idea that our world would be turned upside down by COVID-19. We never imagined that we would need to cancel our swapfest and move our meetings to over the air and online.

Looking back at 2020 I do see some positives that came out of this situation. The board made the decision to communicate more with the members with emails and a new quarterly newsletter. We also decided to hold meetings every

month to make sure we stayed in contact with our members. We have been experimenting with online presentations for our Zoom meetings. We are working to put these presentations on our club's [YouTube channel](#). Dick N9EEE is working on refreshing our club webpages and adding more resources for our members.

As we move forward in 2021 we still have many unknowns. We know that we will not have a swapfest this spring because of restrictions on public gatherings. It is still early for us to make any decisions about Field Day. This means we need to figure out other ways for us to do club activities either over the air or by video chat. We could have times set aside during the month to focus on topics like DXing, digital modes, CW, or general new ham questions. If anyone is interested in this type of activity, please let us know. We can help promote it or help schedule a Zoom meeting for you. It is time for us to be creative and try new things. Who knows one of these ideas may be something that we continue to do after COVID-19 is over.

- Dave KA9WXN

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report, as of 1/16/2021

Account Balances

Petty Cash: \$20 (Held by treasurer)

Paypal: \$458

Checking: \$5,905

CD #1: \$5,178

CD #2: \$7,635

Total all accounts: \$19,196

Some items of note since our last newsletter:

- there was a typo in Nov newsletter, CD #1 has \$5,178 as shown above, not \$5,187.
- We have discontinued the paper statements from our bank, saving the club \$10/month.
- Our insurance policy has been renewed at the same cost as last year, \$200, this covers our club events and equipment. That cost came in after the January Treasurer's report closed, so it will be on our February report.
- A mailing was sent out at the end of 2021 to members who had not renewed yet. \$26 for mailing postage and to have stamps on hand. This resulted in a number of renewals.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joe Schwarz

MRAC 2021 Budget

INCOME	Total
Dues (based on 40 paid memberships)	800
Interest/dividends, Checking and CDs	180
Interclub Swapfest	250
Meeting Raffle	9
Auction	0
Refreshment receipts	6
Donations	9
INCOME TOTAL	1,254
EXPENSES	Total
Mailing of Chatter	40
Repeater Maintenance / Improvements	200
Repeater Internet Access	360
Repeater Coordination	10
Field Day Food/Expenses	200
Picnic Food	50
WI Class A Raffle License	25
Insurance	200
Checks, Printing, Postage and Media	60
Corporation Fee to WI	10
PO Box annual lease	150
ARISS Project	400
EXPENSE TOTAL	1,705
BUDGET SUMMARY	Totals
INCOME TOTALS	1,254
EXPENSE TOTALS	1,705
Totals	-451

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

As you've noticed, things have changed since 2020, including a new newsletter. 2021 ushers in the evolution of Hamateur Chatter, the longtime traditional news source for club members of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, from a monthly printed newsletter to a quarterly e-newsletter, distributed electronically to your email inbox. The reasons for this are many, and hopefully most of them are appreciated and beneficial to you.

Uses current technology	Contributes to less waste in our landfills
Flexibility to adjust content according to need	Substantially reduces cost

Wider options for design and content	Allows links to documents and image files
Easier and quicker distribution to members and non-members.	Allows links to the website for more in-depth information and outside resources
Easy to produce	Forward to a friend.
Easy to store in an electronic file	Special updates can be written and distributed quickly

Our quarterly distribution schedule for 2021: Feb, May, July, and November.

The flexibility of an e-newsletter format will allow us to morph into yet another form in the future to condense stories into summaries and link them to our website, the real source of information for members of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club.

Hamateur Chatter is now hiring! Were you awesome writing for your school newspaper? Are you a blogger? Do you have good writing and editing skills? Can you take a picture with you smartphone or DSLR? The editor could use your help. No compensation, just the admiration of the editor, Board, and all the club members who read Hamateur Chatter. We'll even toss in press credentials so you get front row seating at future meetings. Hamateur Chatter is published quarterly. PLEASE contact N9EEE@arrl.net

WEBSITE REFRESH - W9RH.ORG



Our website, W9RH.org, is going through some alterations to become an even more valued information resource to our club members. This is not an overnight refresh, but a gradual change to streamline and re-align content, add new information and resources, and add a more contemporary feel. The goal is to make our website the hub of club information that you'll use as your primary resource for news, event details, activities, and a couple of other functions too early to divulge. As we progress, our e-newsletters will begin to link to the website or other online properties for deeper information.

The refreshed website will also become a tool for those interested in the hobby to further their interest. And non-members will find useful general information as well as club highlights to familiarize themselves with becoming a

club member.

Your input and feedback is always welcome. N9EEE@arrl.net

MEMBER RESOURCES



Zoom presentations are now uploaded to our YouTube channel, featuring:

- SSTV & ISS w/ Dean Berglund, KC9REN
- WIRES-X w/ John Kruk, N9UPC, Yaesu Nat'l Sales Manager
- Revealing the MRAC Repeater w/ Dave Schank, KA9WXN, MRAC Pres and Repeater Tech Guy (work in progress)

Watch a video, give us a "thumbs up," and subscribe to our YouTube channel to be alerted to new uploads. Click on the logo above to access our videos.

Soon, you will also access our YouTube channel from our website.

ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS

2021 ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS CALENDAR

The MRAC & MAARS Interclub Swapfest has been postponed, BUT we have a working date for THIS FALL, so look out for the next e-newsletter, watch the website, follow our Facebook page, and check in to the nets to learn more.

MONTH	EVENT/ACTIVITY	DATE	STATUS
January			
February	FM Simplex Contest	Feb 28	On schedule
	Pottluck Dinner		Cancelled
	Swapfest		Postponed til Aug 28
March			

April			
May	Auction	May 27	Live via Zoom
	Tailgate Hamfest		Cancelled
June	Field Day	June 26-27	Same as last year
July			
August	Picnic	Aug 14	Details pending
September			
	Superfest	Sept 25	Details pending
October	JOTA	Oct 16-18	Details pending
November			
December			

SAVE THE DATES:

Wisconsin QSO Party - March 14 (note club affiliation on log)

Wisconsin Parks On The Air - Sept 18 (club activation details pending)

MRAC & MAARS INTERCLUB SWAPFEST

Saturday, August 28, 2021

Vendor set-up 6:00 am

Doors open 8:00 am - Noon

Milwaukee Elks Lodge #46

Watch for more details in future [e-newsletters](#), [Facebook](#) page, [our website](#), and club nets.



FM SIMPLEX CONTEST (2021)

Sponsored by Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC)

This is an event everyone in the club can enjoy, the way you want to enjoy it. Load up the minivan and make it a family day of fun visiting parks (grid squares, wink wink). Stand on your upper balcony with your HT (and hot cup of coffee). Find that tall ridge and test that new portable quad you've built. Blow off the dust on your Fusion-equipped or D-Star radio and grab the honors. And be sure to note your club affiliation as MRAC or Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. See the rules [HERE](#).

FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

sponsored by

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT

6M, 2M, 1.25M, 70CM

INCLUDING FUSION AND D-STAR



SPONSOR: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC)

PURPOSE: to promote FM simplex operation and VHF/UHF contesting while giving new hams an opportunity to develop their contesting skills.

TIMING: 2m (1:00 pm - 2:00 pm), 70cm (2:00 pm - 2:30 pm),
6m (2:30 pm - 3:00 pm), 1.25m (3:00 pm - 3:30 pm),
Digital Voice* (3:30 pm - 4:00 pm)

REGION: Southeastern Wisconsin (Grids EN52, EN53, EN62, EN63).
Contacts from other grid squares are welcome.

FREQUENCIES: simplex only, no repeaters or satellites. Please view the rules for specific simplex frequencies prior to operation.

DIGITAL VOICE: Fusion and D-Star.

EXCHANGE: call sign and four character grid square.

AWARD CATEGORIES: Base, Mobile, HT, and Club.

AWARDS: Certificates for each 1st place per category, per band. Limit one award per person. Winning club is recognized on the plaque at HRO Milwaukee.

Please review the Rules and Log Submission at www.W9RH.org

ENTRIES DUE BY MARCH 28, 2021

You know what happened - COVID forced a change in the rules. The ARRL urged clubs to operate as single operators allowing members to roll-up their individual scores into an aggregate score representing the club. Instead of high-flying tri-banders and disco-ball operating tents, members were individually camping in tents, under the canopy in the backyard, in air conditioned comfort of their home, or huddled around the glow of scant basement lighting...kinda sorta sounds like Field Day, doesn't it? The result, THEY HAD FUN! Here are the ops and their scores. Also noted below is our ranking among local area clubs.

MRAC Members	# Contacts	Power	# Ops	Tot Pts
NX1K	161	5	2	2060
KA9WXN	51	2	2	430
K9FI/K9WOC	99	2	2	348
W9RH	62	2	1	274
N9UX	7	2	1	78

LOCAL CLUB AGGREGATE SCORES

Area Clubs	Points	# Logs	# per log
Ozaukee RC	18,592	11	1,690
Society of Mid Cntstrs	16,180	12	1,348
West Allis ARC	6,558	11	596
LEFROG	5,300	2	2,650
Wisconsin ARC	3,822	8	478
Milwaukee RAC	3,190	5	638
MAARS	1,600	2	800
Milwaukee RC	784	3	261

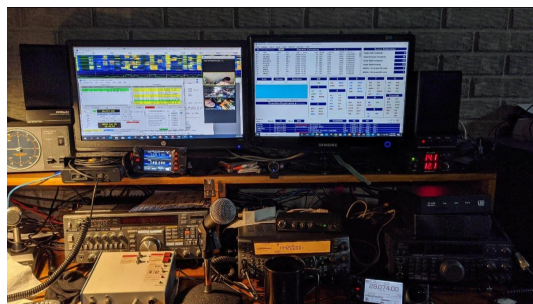
Ops comments:

"We used Field Day as a means to complete our W.A.S." - K9OWC & K9FI, Cherri and Jerry

"While operating felt like Field Days of old (in a tent running CW QRP with batteries, solar panel and a doublet), I certainly missed the community of past Field Days. I did get a rush whenever I was able to work an old friend." - NX1K, Mark

"This year most of us decided to work from home. N3FJP has an option to create webpages. You can find the logs here <http://w9rh.org/w9rh.org/contestlogs/>. We created a space on our website to host individuals contest scores. We also hosted a 24-hour Zoom meeting for members to interact. This turned out to be a blast and we are thinking of doing it when we are back in person." - KA9WXN, Dave

Field Day In A Snapshot:





WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

March 14, 2021 from 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm CT
Sponsored by West Allis Radio Amateur Club
Presentation from Mike Johnson, WO9B at our next Club Meeting

CLUB CHALLENGE!

The Milwaukee RAC would like to field a club challenge this year by aggregating the scores from our participating club members. You can participate through the operating style you love most, log your contacts, and submit your entry noting Milwaukee RAC as your club. Like to run mobile? Each county is a multiplier, so you will be hunted. Like to run VHF or UHF? There is a separate plaque for that. Are you a rookie to WIQSO? There's a category for that and you have great odds for winning. County Hunter? This is your dream. Hot shot contester? Go for it as a single or multi-op (be COVID safe). Operate for as much or as little as you want to; it all adds up.

We will be hosting a strategy meeting via zoom in early March to help you participate and maximize your score. Want the scoop to score big? New to contesting? No commitment required to attend this zoom meeting. Watch your email for more information. The contest Rules are posted [HERE](#)

MEMBERSHIP

DID YOU FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

The Annual Membership Renewal is underway with a handful of members yet to renew. If you have any questions about the value of membership, please contact any Board member who will be happy to answer any of your questions.

A membership renewal form was sent to you recently to be completed and returned with a check via mail. You may also renew online [HERE](#) (Firefox browser only) If you require another printed form, click [HERE](#). Don't delay...the fun is ramping up quickly in 2021.

>> MEMBERSHIP SURVEY <<

Amateur Radio is a fast moving hobby with new technologies, new operating styles, and old ideas made new. By taking our survey, you're helping us plan programming for future meetings, and develop new activities and creating an Elmer (Hams Helping Hams) program. Please take the survey by clicking [HERE](#).

MEMBERSHIP REFERRAL

Do you know another ham that would benefit from membership in the MRAC? Invite them to become a member and receive a \$5 credit toward your next year's membership fee. They must note your call sign as a referral on the application form This is intended for new hams or OMs who haven't been an active member in the club for at least 5 years. Offer limited to 4 referrals per person/family membership per year. Help us grow our club.

MEMBER NEWS

Welcome new members! We're glad you joined us.

KD9RAW, Joe Bettencourt Jr, Mequon
WA9PND David Lyle, Brookfield
KC9WW Fred Mikolajewski, Franklin

MRAC VEC TESTING

February 27, 2021

The MRAC VEC is now accepting reservations for the February 27, 2021 test session. Due to the ongoing pandemic, only 10 reservations will be accepted for this exam session. Please email tczaja@tcsprime.com to request a reservation.

When requesting a reservation for an exam session, please include:

- Your name
- Call sign (or FRN number if you don't have an amateur radio license - call sign)
- Email address
- Phone number
- Which test you wish to take (Technician, General or Extra)

Due to COVID restrictions, candidates are limited to one test per exam session. Please make sure you bring your own pencils, pens, and calculator if needed (please clear memories prior to the exam session). Cell phones may not be used as a calculator. If you are testing to upgrade your amateur radio license, please bring a copy of your current license. All candidates are required to wear a mask while inside the facility. Visitors must wait outside.

For more information about testing requirements and other useful information, visit their website, mracvec.org.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Dave Schank, KA9WXN

Vice President: (vacant)

Secretary: Dale Webler, AB9DW

Treasurer: Joe Schwarz, N9UX

Directors

Stan Siehndel, KD9AUY

Barry Sprifke, W9BLS

Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

Dean Berglund, KC9REN

Tom Pachner, W9TJP

Trustee

Dave De Febo, WB9BWP

Meetings and Nets

NOTICE: At present, no in-person meetings or activities have been planned in the first half of the year due to guidelines restricting group size and social distancing due to the current pandemic.

MEETINGS

...are held the last Thursday of every month, except when holidays conflict. During the pandemic, we are offering a hybrid of a formal meeting and check-in at 7:00 pm on the club repeater, followed at 8:00 pm via [zoom](#) with a social program and occasional formal presentation.

Meeting Dates:

February 25, 2021: FM Simplex Contest, WI QSO Party

March 25, 2021: Survey Results, Committees, "Favorite Ham App or Website"

April 29, 2021: Elections, "Spring Antenna Projects"

May 27: Field Day Plan, Auction Night

NETS

FM 2m Repeater: Fridays, 9:00 pm CT

10m SSB 28.490 MHz: Fridays, 8:00 pm CT

Fusion 2m Repeater: Saturdays, 7:00 pm CT

Fusion 2m Repeater: MNWIS Mondays, 7:00 pm CT

REPEATER

145.390 MHz, -600 kHz, CTCSS 127.3 Hz

FM and C4FM (Fusion) modes - Auto Mode Select

WIRES-X connected: Node ID: 33588 Room ID:43588

For more information about our repeater system, click [HERE](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: w9rh@arrl.net

WEBSITE: W9RH.org

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/MRAC.W9RH



Our mailing address is:

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