



**Milwaukee  
Radio  
Amateurs'  
Club**



*"The ARRL's oldest  
affiliated club"*



# HAMATEUR CHATTER

Editor: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE  
Proofreader: Ted Carlson, N9KQQ

1st Quarter 2022

## In This Issue

- From The President's Shack
- Treasurer's Financial Report
- Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Board of Directors Notice to Members
- Events, Activities and Projects
- Member News
- Join In The Fun - volunteerism
- Member Resources
- New Product Insider
- Swapfests
- VEC Testing
- Officers and Board of Directors

- Meetings and Nets

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



It is the first quarter of 2022, and we are still dealing with COVID-19 and the ever-changing effects on our lives. We would all like to get back to normal and resume our regular activities. As I write this, it looks like the number of infections for the current surge is starting to go down in the right direction. My hope is we will continue to see fewer infections, and we will move closer to normal by mid-summer.

I want to take this opportunity to inform the membership that I will not run for re-election in April 2022. I have served on the MRAC board since 2009 and as President since 2012. I still plan on continuing to be involved in the club, just not in a leadership role.

My greatest honor has been to see the club reach its 105th anniversary, along with celebrating its century-long affiliation with ARRL. I look forward to staying involved with MRAC in the future, and seeing the organization continue to grow into its next 100 years.

Dave Schank  
KA9WXN  
President

## TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer's Report, as of 01/16/2022

### Account Balances

Petty Cash: \$20.00 (Held by treasurer)

PayPal: \$0

Checking: \$6,648

CD #1: \$5,178

CD #2: \$7,635

Total all accounts: \$19,481

MRAC 2022 Budget	
INCOME	Year Subtotal
Dues	800
Interest/dividends, Checking and CDs	60
Auction	100
<b>MONTHLY INCOME TOTALS</b>	<b>960</b>
EXPENSES	Year Subtotal
Ham Radio Boot Camp Marketing	40
Repeater Maintenance / Improvements	200
Repeater Internet Access	360
Repeater Coordination	10
Club Zoom Account	150
Field Day Food/Expenses	200
Picnic Food	50
WI Class A Raffle License	25
Insurance	200
Checks, Printing, Postage and Media	80
Corporation Fee to WI	10
PO Box annual lease	210
ARISS Project	400
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>1,935</b>
BUDGET SUMMARY	Year Totals
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	<b>960</b>
<b>EXPENSE TOTALS</b>	<b>1,935</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>-975</b>

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joe Schwarz  
N9UX  
MRAC Treasurer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS SUMMARY

December, January, and February Meetings

**President's Remarks:** Greg, KB9E, has resigned from the Board. An appointee to fill his remaining term of one year will be made at a future date.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer indicated that a bill for a SWR meter and several hookup cables was paid. This is for the ARISS project. He also was working on the budget for the 2022 year and sought input from the board on estimated dollar amounts that would be needed in several categories. The Treasurer is working to change the club's PayPal account from a personal account to a business account.

**Membership Committee:**

The Board will be sending out a survey to the membership to determine their desire regarding in-person meetings. There will be three options – Thursday evening, Saturday morning, hybrid of Thursday evening Zoom / Saturday morning breakfast - plus a comment area on the form. It is felt by the Board that one-on-one in person social interactions are an integral part of the social welfare of the organization.

A new Membership Renewal Process yielded the highest retention rate and lowest attrition rate in the past few years. The multi-touchpoint communications plan of a notice in the newsletter, an email, mailed flyer, and personal phone call made sure current members were aware of the renewal period. The plan will be implemented again in late 2022.

Discussions were held on a member growth strategy to bring in new members. Events such as Ham Radio Boot Camp and weekly nets have been responsible for new members. The club will have a table at Ozaukee Radio Club swapfest on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Rookie Net will debut on February 15, 2022 at 8:00 PM on the club repeater 145.390 MHz. It will run every Tuesday at that time.

**Marketing Committee:**

Hamateur Chatter: looking for a new or co-editor for the compiling and writing of the quarterly newsletter, Hamateur Chatter. Dick would like to reduce his workload and put a greater focus on other meaningful areas. Also, looking for additional non-club news articles of interest. "Show and tell" articles by members carry a high interest.

Facebook Group: Board members should get active on Facebook Group and post items of interest to spur conversation. Followers don't realize they can now contribute content.

**Net Control Committee:** No Report

**ARISS Project:** The club purchased for the ARISS group a VHF/UHF wattmeter and several patch cables for testing the antenna system setup. A repair to one of the driven elements on the 2-meter yagi was completed. Software on the ARISS computer was updated. This included Windows and SatPC32 upgrades.

**Swapfest:** The Board has decided that the club will not hold a swapfest in 2022. A committee was formed to look at the possibility of holding a swapfest in 2023.



Additional members for the committee are needed.

**Simplex Contest:** The FM Simplex Contest will be held on February 27, 2022. Full contest rules are on the MRAC web page.

**MRAC 105 Special Event Station:** A request was made to purchase a fusion radio for the club to support this event and other events. The request was turned down. It was felt that radios could be provided by club members when needed. The Special Event Operation was held on January 22, 2022 at HRO. There were 35 VHF contacts and 113 HF contacts. The highlight was a contact with W1AW on 40 meters. A certificate can be obtained by Hams who worked the station. Details are on the club web page.

**Hams Helping Hams:** Currently have one request. The request is on hold till spring to allow the instillation of a ground rod.

**Ham Radio Boot Camp:** The Ham Radio Boot Camp will be held on February 12, 2022 at the HRO training room. The response has been very good. Because of Covid-19 the class size is limited to 20 participants by registration only.

**Marketing Committee:** No Report

**Repeater/Technical Committee:** Fusion guidelines are still under development.

Compiled and submitted by  
Ted Carlson, N9KQQ  
MRAC Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTICE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION PROCESS

The bylaws of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club direct its membership to conduct an annual election to select Board members to serve a term of two years. There are seven (7) directors who rotate term completions each year. This year, there are three term completions, making three seats available on the Board of Directors. Dave Schank, President (KA9WXN), Joe Schwarz, N9UX (Treasurer), and Dean Berglund (KC9REN) have completed their two-year term. Though they may return for another term if elected, two have chosen to retire from the Board.

The Board of Directors has approved the election process of online nominations and online voting, as was done last year. The process is secure. Tabulations are instant.

Listed below is our process and timeline.

Nominations accepted	March 28 - April 9
Nomination confirmations	April 10 - 15

Online voting	April 17 - 23
Voting Summary sent to the Board of Directors	April 24
New Board members announced	April 28
Officer selection	May 9

Participate. Help our club continue to grow and remain vibrant.

We are asking YOU to consider becoming a Board member. Our process allows for self-nomination as well as nominating others with their consent. If you are interested, please nominate yourself. If you are unable to volunteer for this important volunteer work, consider others within the club who may possess that skill set and nominate them for the position. Please discuss this with them before you actually nominate them.

An email with the nomination form will be sent in late March. Also, keep a look out for a link to the online voting ballot in late April.

## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

# FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

sponsored by

## Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

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](http://www.W9RH.org)

**ENTRIES DUE BY MARCH 15, 2022**

**Debuts on Tuesday, February 15  
Every Tuesday evening at 8:00 pm  
MRAC Repeater - 145.390 MHz**

Created specifically for recently licensed amateur radio operators, the Rookie Net will evolve into a rookie-run Net with topics posed by recently licensed hams so they may grow in the hobby from other's experiences.

All too often, a newer ham is intimidated by a Net setting with a feeling of uncertainty in asking a question about a clarification, challenge or obstacle they are facing. We're removing that by turning the Net over to the Rookies - a Net of peers.

Here's how it will work. Net Control Op will read a preamble with the protocol for the Net and take check-ins from all stations. Rookies get the first round and toss out any topic they need discussed or clarified, a challenge they face, an obstacle to overcome, or celebrate successes or new finds. "Experts, Elmers, or OMs" may join the second round to provide support with advice or comments. At NCO's discretion, a third round will be an open round for back and forth dialogue around a specific topic.

**Join Us Tuesday, February 15 and every Tuesday evening at 8:00 pm**

---

## **SPECIAL EVENT STATION W9RH/105**

Celebrating 105 years of service to Milwaukee area amateur radio operators, the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club operated a special event station with the unique call sign W9RH/105 on Saturday, January 22, 2022 from inside the showroom at Ham Radio Outlet in Milwaukee.

HF log: 113 contacts

VHF log: 36 contacts

Operators: Ted (N9KQQ), Dick (N9EEE), Tony (KD9NXU), Dave (WB9BWP), Fred (W9KEY), Dale (AB9DW)

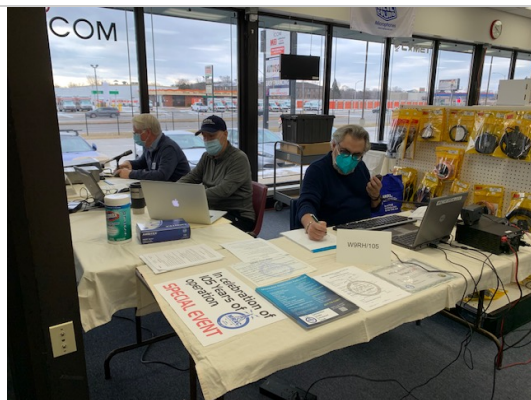
We primarily operated 20 meters, but worked a few on 40 meters as the day's end neared. We also provided access for local stations via the MRAC repeater in both FM and C4FM modes.

Thank you to HRO for hosting our special event station.

Thank you to Joe, N9UX for loaning us his FTM-400 to work stations on the repeater.

Thank you to the Planning Committee for all your hard work: Dick (N9EEE), Ted (N9KQQ), and Dave (WB9BWP).

---



## FIELD DAY 2021 RESULTS

### "Another COVID Year"

As the pandemic continued from early 2020, another Field Day was impacted with individual stations operating on from home, field, or mobile instead of the usual club



setting of tents, towers, radios, and grills. Again, the ARRL permitted individual club members to aggregate their scores rolled-up into a club score. Here's who participated and how we fared against other local clubs.

CALL SIGN	CLASS	QSOs	SCORE
KA9WXN	1D	153	912
N9KQQ	1D	155	668
W9RH	1D	203	456
N9EEE (QRP)	1B	17	445
WB9BWP	1D	122	294
N9UX	1D	16	108

CLUB	SCORE	#OPS
ORC	12170	5
LEFROG	7434	2
W/K ARC	6600	1
WI ARC	3554	7
MRAC	2883	6
WARAC	2676	4
MSOE	726	1
HRO MILW ARC	424	1

Stay tuned for 2022 plans. If you would like to be on the Field Day Planning Committee, contact any Board member.





---

## SWAPFEST 2022 - CANCELLED

MRAC and MAARS have decided not to have a fest in 2022. Many factors led to this decision, including how COVID-19 and its variants have made it difficult to predict our attendance and vendor numbers. Our event would also be subject to any City of Milwaukee COVID-19 restrictions that may be in place (or change) at the time of the fest.

Part of our decision also came down to the finances and staffing of doing another fest during COVID-19. MAARS had notified MRAC that it would not participate this year because of the results of our attempt at a fest in August 2021. MAARS shares half of the expense, and their members make up half of the day-of staffing to run the fest. Our costs for our August fest were \$946, so our profit for the fest was \$58.

To just break even if we did a March fest this year, we would need to sell all 39 tables and have a minimum of 80 buyers in attendance. At this point, it's a really ambitious goal and not realistically attainable based on last year's outcome.

So we have decided to use this time to plan for a 2023 return for our fest. A new committee made up of members of both clubs will evaluate what we need to do to have a successful fest in 2023. They will look at all aspects of the fest, including date, location, and expenses in the hope of creating an event that everyone will enjoy.

If you have ideas or want to be involved in the planning, please let the new committee or the Board know.

Submitted by Dave Schank, KA9WXN

---

## ARISS UPDATE



# ARISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

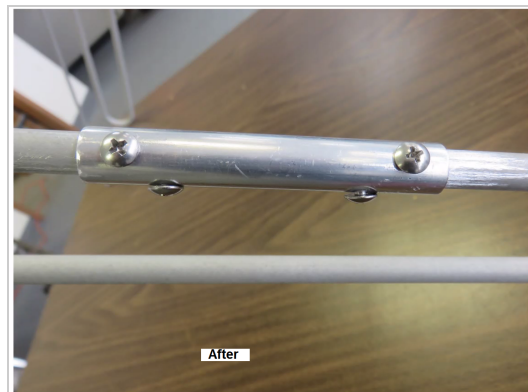
### MRAC ARISS PROJECT UPDATE

During the last quarter the MRAC ARISS group completed the following tasks.

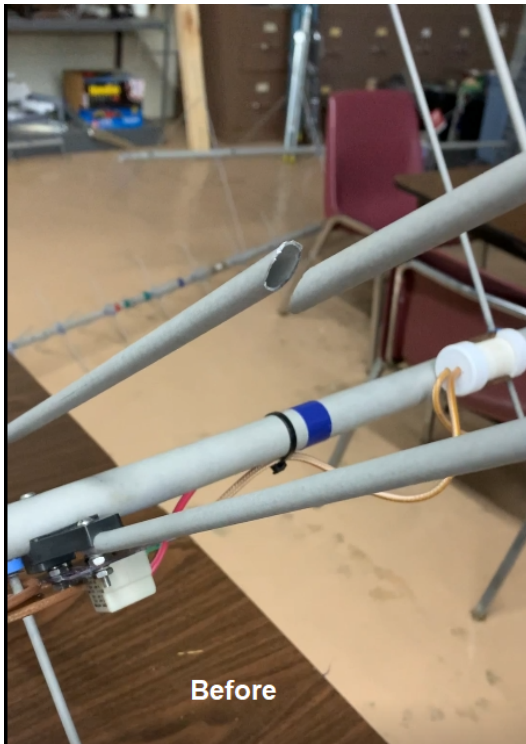
- The receive preamps were mounted to the system mast.
- A SWR watt meter and a number of patch cables were purchased. This will be used when the system is set up for operation to verify proper operation of the antennas.
- One of the two folded dipole driven elements on the 2 meter antenna broke when the antenna was accidentally handled by that element. The break appeared to have started a long time ago and it finally broke. The antennas we are using were from a satellite installation at Amateur Electronics Supply and were on a tower for many years. HRO had no need for the satellite antennas and are allowing the club to use them. The group has been working through a number of repair issues with the old antennas.
- The computer software we will use to control the operation of the system was up dated. This included the windows operating system and the SatPC32 satellite tracking program.

Next month the plan is to assemble the antennas to the support structure. We will be determining the final coax runs from the moving antennas to the fixed mounted preamps and plan to order new cables for the system.

Submitted by Ted Carlson N9KQQ







## HAMS HELPING HAMS

When a Ham needs help, who you gonna call?

### **We're Hams Helping Hams™**

Interested in amateur radio but need help getting a license? Contemplating a project but need some advice? Facing a challenge in the ham shack but need an additional perspective? Stuck with a project and need some insight? Been away for a few years and need a jump start?

“Elmers” participate in a rich tradition within the Amateur Radio hobby whereby seasoned, experienced hams offer assistance and share knowledge to newer hams getting their start, licensed hams re-entering the hobby after time away, or budding hams interested in achieving their Technician class license.

Hams Helping Hams™ is a seasoned group of Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club members each offering a unique set of skills and expertise for assisting club members. Categories of expertise range from hands-on practical applications to advisory and counseling. We offer this service to our ham community as a give-back and thank you to the Elmers who helped give us our start in this multi-faceted and fascinating radio communications hobby many years ago.

The MRAC's Hams Helping Hams™ program is designed for one-to-one assistance with meetings and dialogue taking place over the phone, via zoom, or in-person, as the need fits and both parties feel comfortable, especially during the COVID wind-down period. Hands-on demonstrations may be best conducted in-person whereas

advisory topics may be more immediate via zoom or phone calls. Let your Elmer be your guide during this process.

Your Hams Helping Hams are club members Dean Berglund, Ted Carlson, Dave DeFebo, Pancho Doneis, Dave Schank, Dick Strassburger, and Dale Webler.

The services noted below are available to any member of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. Non-members should contact the Membership Committee regarding benefits or apply online for membership. Milwaukee and Waukesha County area high school students and younger may inquire about Tech Class License assistance without need for membership.

Antenna design	Noise reduction
Antenna raising	Operating skills
Building kits	Public service
Contesting	Em Comms
CW practice	RFI
Digital modes (FT8,etc.)	Satellites
Digital voice (Fusion, etc.)	SSTV/ATV
Direction finding (ADRF)	Station set-up
DXing	Tower raising
Grounding and bonding	Tech Class assistance
Logging software	

[When you need help, complete this request form.](#)

## 2022 ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS CALENDAR

Please consult this e-newsletter, check the website, follow our Facebook page, and listen to our nets for more information regarding these and other activities of interest.

MONTH	EVENT / ACTIVITY	DATE
January	MRAC 105th Anniversary Special Event Station	Jan 22
February	Ham Radio Boot Camp FM Simplex Contest	Feb 12 Feb 27
March	MRAC & MAARS Swapfest	cancelled

April	Club Elections Confirmation	Apr 24
May	Auction	May tbd
June	Field Day	June 25-26
July		
August	Summer Picnic	Aug 13
September		
October	JOTA	Oct 15
November		
December		

#### SAVE THE DATE:

Wisconsin QSO Party - March 13

Wisconsin Parks On The Air - Sept 17

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL WRAP-UP

Thanks to all who have renewed your membership!

This year, the Membership Committee took a proactive approach to encourage membership renewals. While some members renew years in advance, sometimes a reminder is needed. Beyond just requesting a renewal in the Q4 newsletter, we took a three phased approach:

- 1) In early December, a direct email to any members who had not renewed yet. - This resulted in a high number of responses.
- 2) Later in December, a postal reminder to renew was sent to those remaining members. - This resulted in a few responses.
- 3) Finally, in January, we attempted to reach the remaining members via a phone call (where we had information) to make a final contact. While this effort is just finishing, it is looking promising for a few more renewals.

Understanding that late in the year things can fall through the cracks, we consider the approach to have been very successful. We plan on a similar approach for the end of 2022.

If you have questions on this effort, would like to learn more about the committee, or even help us out (it's pretty small time demand), please contact any of the committee members: Dave, WB9BWP, Dick, N9EEE or Joe, N9UX

## MEMBERSHIP GROWTH STRATEGY

Efforts from our 2021 new member growth strategy have paid off with several new members joining the club since August. Our weekly nets have exposed the club and its activities to several newly joined members, as has the Ham Radio Boot Camp, Special Event Station, advertising flyers at HRO, and word of mouth.

In 2022, the club will appear at swapfests, invite new hams to participate in Field Day and JOTA, and continue with what worked in the past to encourage hams to actively participate in their passionate hobby at MRAC.

Referrals are still the best growth strategy. That said, we are looking for volunteers with "big lungs," who will act as passionate ambassadors for the club wherever they and two or more hams gather. Please let any of the committee members know of your keen interest: Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP, Joe, N9UX, or Dick Strassburger, N9EEE.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Doug De Laurier - N9WGI  
Mike Harrington - KD9GCN  
Jerry Marowsky - N0IMJ  
Michael Mertes - KD9TJP  
Christopher Pierce - N9JOB  
Chad Stiles - N9PAY  
Mike Stiles - KB9QAL  
Alex Vargas - KC9UDX

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Our Annual Thank You List

Board Members	Dean Berglund, KC9REN

	Ted Carlson, N9KQQ
	Tom Pachner, W9TJP
	Dave Schank, KA9WXN
	Joe Schwarz, N9UX
	Gregg Sperling, B9E
	Dick Strassburger, N9EEE
Trustee	Dave DeFebo, WB9BWP
Net Control Ops	Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA
	Bob McGowan, KC9YRR
	Bill Spellman, WQ9A
	Leroy Skalstad, WD9HOT
	Scott Smith, W9MBL
Swapfest	Roger Heindl, AC9BT Steve Sundquist, N9FSE + others already acknowledged
JOTA	Edward Goto, KD9OZD Darlene Berglund, KC9SBN + others already acknowledged
Special Event Station	Tony Satariano, KD9NXU Dale Webler, AB9DW The staff at HRO + others already acknowledged

OMG, I hope I didn't miss anyone because we sure do appreciate even the smallest volunteer effort.

## THE VALUE OF MRAC CLUB MEMBERSHIP

When you belong to the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club you draw upon the history of ham radio and help shape its future. The oldest ARRL-affiliated amateur radio club and one of a handful of the oldest ham radio clubs in the USA established in 1917, the MRAC is the bedrock for supporting local hams advancing in the hobby, fostering a unique camaraderie, and providing meaningful opportunities. These are just a few of the benefits of membership.

Field Day  
Special Event Station  
FM Simplex Contest  
Wide coverage Repeater  
System Fusion WIRES-X node  
Hams Helping Hams (Elmers)  
Ham Radio Boot Camp  
Auction

Swapfest  
Summer Picnic  
Weekly Nets  
Net control training  
Monthly meetings  
Special Projects, such as ARISS  
Facebook Group  
Quarterly e-newsletter

## **A VOLUNTEER SPEAKS UP**

Since people see me at events or working for the club, I get asked why I volunteer. It all started in grade school when I was 11 years old. My teachers allowed me to help with non-class work responsibilities. I delivered interoffice mail to the school office or another teacher. When I went to middle school, I became an A/V monitor and school photographer. During high school, I became a science room monitor, basketball team manager, and worked on stage crew. Our school also had a radio and TV broadcasting program, which gave me opportunities to work with MPS district staff to record and document other students across the district working on community building projects during my senior year. That led to a part-time job televising monthly school board meetings, and my future career working in television broadcast engineering.

My volunteering with ham radio started because of my father. He has been a licensed ham since 1961 (WA9AKV). While growing up, he was an active member of the West Allis Radio Amateur's Club. My freshman year of high school, I became a ham, passed my novice license, and joined the West Allis Club. Even before I was a ham, I was volunteering at the club swapfest by staffing the doors or directing traffic outside.

When I went to college at UW-Milwaukee, I joined the UWM Amateur Radio Society. I was asked to serve as the club representative to the Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society (MAARS) board, which has its repeater system on the Sandburg Hall dorm. From there, I was given more opportunities to help with ARES public service events, and was a founding member of the current Sullivan Weather Committee spotting program.

Volunteering in ham radio has let me connect with people from all walks of life; allowed me to take on leadership roles at MRAC, MAARS, WARAC, Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR), and Milwaukee Area Digital Operators Group (MADOG); taken me on fox hunts and balloon chases; connected me with other volunteer groups like the Boy Scouts, Wisconsin Special Olympics, and West Allis Charities (Western Days Parade); and given me the honor of celebrating the 100th anniversaries of ARRL in Newington, CT, and MRAC here in Milwaukee.

When I sat down to write this, I realized that I have been a ham for 35 years, and

have volunteered in many local ham radio organizations for the same amount of time. Over the years, being a volunteer has also helped me grow my circle of friends. We have shared some really awesome experiences and have memories that will live on in our stories for years to come.

That's why I volunteer. It's not because there's a need to be filled; it's because the people really make the difference.

So the next time there's a call for volunteers, consider taking the time to find out more and jump right in. I'll guarantee you will get so much more than you will give.

- Dave Schank, KA9WXN

---

Thank you, and to all our volunteers who make this club thrive.

There are many ways to volunteer. Be like Dave.

:

Become a Board members

Be Net Control for Rookie Net, 2m Net, 10m Net, or Fusion Net

Join the Welcome Committee as a "wing-ham"

Editor of Hamateur Chatter

Score logs submitted for the FM Simplex Contest

Be an Elmer

Help at Ham Radio Bootcamp (room facilitator, workshop mentor, counselor)

Membership Committee (club ambassador, club rep at display table, direct mail)

Marketing Committee (publicity for events and activities; FaceBook posts)

Program Committee (identify topics for membership meetings, contact speakers)

So, what interests you?

Contact any Board member and you'll be put to good use. Or [N9EEE@ARRL.net](mailto:N9EEE@ARRL.net).

"Volunteer to volunteer."

---

## MEMBER RESOURCES

## W9RH REPEATER USAGE GUIDELINES

The Board of Directors has released an updated, rewritten version of the [W9RH](#)

Repeater Usage Guidelines. These are commonsense guidelines that members would expect to be implemented on their repeater. Since we have a number of new hams and guests using the repeater, it was determined the guidelines should appear on the website.

Also, Fusion (C4FM & WIRES-X) Guidelines are a work-in-progress which will be reviewed at a near-future Board meeting and published shortly thereafter.

---

## **W9RH.org IS YOUR INFORMATION RESOURCE**

Meetings, events, notices, and ham-related resources are added or updated almost daily.



### **NEW!!! FACEBOOK GROUP**

The W9RH Facebook Page is migrating to a Facebook Group

What this means to you is:

- ability to post original content (no need to ask for permission. It's granted)
- limited access to members only (safety feature for you and the group)
- upload or view ham radio-related files (find our Field Day location)
- create polls (wonder how many club members have mobile radios? Ask and find out)
- invite others to an operating event (going to a park? invite others to join you)
- save the group to a shortcut for quick access
- increased group activity in your timeline
- higher security

Go Now to [Facebook.com/groups/MilwaukeeHamRadio](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MilwaukeeHamRadio)



**Milwaukee Radio  
Amateurs' Club**

on





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
- MRAC Repeater Tour w/ Dave Schank, KA9WXN
- Parks On The Air w/Dick Strassburger, N9EEE\*

\* uploading soon

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.

## NEW PRODUCT INSIDER

### The New Icom HT

After a long hiatus because of the chip factory fire, Icom has released their new D-Star handheld radio - ID-52A.

The radio is a 5W Dual-Band (2M/440) handheld - FM and D-Star. It receives from 88-174 MHz (including air band and FM broadcast) and 225-479 MHz. It has 1,000 memory channels that can be broken down into banks.

The ID-52A has built-in Bluetooth and has a waterproof rating of IPX7. The 2.3" color display looks great and is easy to see. There is a built-in GPS but is NOT an APRS radio. It will add your GPS coordinates to the D-Star data stream when transmitting in that mode. It also has a very loud speaker that even sounds good on FM broadcast.

If you have an Android device, you can get the RS-MS1A app from Google Play. It allows you to control some of the D-Star functions of the radio. For us iOS users, we will have to do it all from the keypad.

You can use the free Icom programming software to program the radio through either the Micro-SD card or use a USB to Micro-USB cable. If you're a user of RT Systems software, they have released a software and cable kit.

*Author's Note - Personally, I have the RT Systems software for all my radios. I can copy and paste my programming from one radio to another with just some minor massaging. That way all my radios have the same programming. Channel 1 - MRAC repeater, Channel 2 - 513 Repeater, etc. No matter which radio I grab I know how it's programmed. The only downside is that you need to buy the software specific to*

*each radio.*

In the Milwaukee area, you can access the D-Star network through the KC9LKZ machine on 2M (440 is temporarily offline). You can also use one of the popular hotspots on the market (like a ZUMspot) or hook the ID-52A directly up to your windows machine and use Icom's software to connect directly to the D-Star network. If you need to get registered on the D-Star network please visit - [dstargateway.org](http://dstargateway.org) You can find additional information about local digital activity at [milwaukeeedigital.org](http://milwaukeeedigital.org).

The radio is currently \$649.95 at all major dealers.

- Tom Pachner, W9TJP

## MRAC VEC TESTING

### Upcoming Test Dates

- February 26, 2022
- March 26, 2022
- April 30, 2022
- May 28, 2022

### **MRAC VEC, INC.**

The MRAC VEC is the local point for amateur radio license testing with regularly scheduled exam sessions each month. They have specific requirements as does the FCC, so please visit their website for instructions prior to visiting the exam site. Reservations are no longer being taken. Walk-ins only..

What to bring to the test session:

- A photo ID
- FRN (Federal Registration Number). You must register with the FCC to obtain your FRN number, in advance of the test session
- Photocopy of your original license
- \$5.00 to offset the cost of testing materials

For more information about testing requirements and other useful information, visit their website, [mracvec.org](http://mracvec.org).

(Interesting News from their website)

### **January 29, 2022 Test Session Recap**

It was a good test session, with a total of 8 candidates attending. Everyone left with new or upgraded licenses.

Two candidates that came in with no license and left with their General, and one candidate that came in with no license and left with their Extra.

Candidates earned the following licenses:

Technician: 2

General: 5

Extra: 1

A big "thank you" to the volunteer examiners who assisted with the test session. Congratulations to the candidates who obtained a new license or upgraded their existing license! A hearty "welcome" to the new members of the ham radio community.

---

## **OFFICERS and DIRECTORS**

### Officers

President: Dave Schank, KA9WXN

Vice President: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

Secretary: Ted Carlson, N9KQQ

Treasurer: Joe Schwarz, N9UX

### Directors

Dean Berglund, KC9REN

Tom Pachner, W9TJP

### Trustee

Dave De Febo, WB9BWP

---

## **MEETINGS AND NETS**

NOTICE: At present, we are not holding in-person club meetings. We continue our official meetings via the repeater and Zoom. We anticipate in-person meetings returning in 2022. Cheers!

### **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 24, 2022: Simplex Contest

March 31, 2022: Mesh Networking

April 28, 2022: Elections

May 27, 2022: Auction

#### NETS

Rookie Net: Tuesdays @ 8:00 pm CT - 145.390 MHz Repeater (FM mode)

10m SSB: Fridays @ 8:00 pm CT - 28.490 MHz SSB

2m FM: Fridays @ 9:00 pm CT - 145.390 MHz FM repeater (FM mode)

Fusion Net: Saturday @ 7:00 pm - 145.390 MHz Repeater (C4FM - DN mode)

#### 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](#).

### OTHER CLUBS' ACTIVITIES



**SUNDAY MARCH 13**

**1:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT**

**Info at: [warac.org](http://warac.org)**

The Ozaukee Radio Club presents its 42nd Annual Spring Indoor  
Amateur Radio, Electronics & Computer



# SWAPFEST



Saturday, April 30, 2022 – 8 AM to 12 PM (Setup begins at 6 AM)

**featuring TOWER ELECTRONICS!**

Columbia St. Mary's Center – W67N890 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, WI

Talk-in: 146.97 – PL 127.3



Like us on  
Facebook.com/orcwi  
[www.ozaukeeradioclub.org](http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org)

**FOOD!  
PRIZES!**

**FREE WIFI  
(OZ EXPO)**



Table Spaces \$10 (All Tables are 6 ft)

**Buy 1 Ticket & 1 Table... just \$15!**

Use Order Form below, email, or call Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY at 262-421-6351

Email: [swapfest@ozaukeeradioclub.org](mailto:swapfest@ozaukeeradioclub.org)

For Advance Tickets, send check with self-addressed stamped **Business-Size Envelope** to:

Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY – W69N905 Evergreen Ct N, #202, Cedarburg WI 53012

**Admission Tickets just \$5 (Please make checks payable to ORC)**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5 = \_\_\_\_\_ Electricity: Yes (Add \$5) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

(For Official Use Only)

Ticket(s) # \_\_\_\_\_ Table(s) # \_\_\_\_\_ Init: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Vendor Entrance Used (Circle one): **1** **2** **3**

# Hamfest 2022

Buy/Sell Amateur Radio Equipment, Electronics and Computer Gear



**Sunday**

**March 20, 2022**

**Free Parking!**

Admission: \$7.00 8' Table Space - \$15.00/ea



**Amateur Volunteer Exams (ARRL VE Team N9RK) starting at 9:30 AM**

**— By Appointment Only —**

You **MUST** contact Rick, [n9rk@vintagesb.net](mailto:n9rk@vintagesb.net)  
in advance to make the appointment

**Presented by: TRI COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - W9MQB**

**Talk-in on the 145.49 Repeater CTCSS of 123**

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

ACTIVITY CENTER

503 NORTH JACKSON AVE.

JEFFERSON, WI 53549

- Vendors will be admitted at 6:00 AM
- Vendors-only unloading zone on West side
- Food and beverages available
- General Admission and Sales begin at 8:00AM



Take I94 to Exit 267, (Johnson Creek) Head South on  
26 to the Hwy 18 Exit. Exit East on Hwy 18 and turn  
left onto Jackson Ave. Look for the Fairgrounds sign.



Next year's date: March 19, 2023

## Hamfest Advanced Registration Form

Registration DEADLINE is: March 16, 2022

Admission: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Note: Table Reservation does not include Admission.

8' Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations require that we receive your payment in advance. Please send payment & SASE to this address:

TCARC-Hamfest 2022, P.O. Box 411, Johnson Creek, WI 53038

Phone: 920-723-7439 Johnny KD9IQG, Email: [hamfest@w9mqb.org](mailto:hamfest@w9mqb.org) Subject: Hamfest 2022

## CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: [w9rh@arrl.net](mailto:w9rh@arrl.net)

WEBSITE: [W9RH.org](http://W9RH.org)

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/MRAC.W9RH](https://facebook.com/MRAC.W9RH)



*Copyright © 2022 Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 26938  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The MKTG Guy · N22W24226 E Parkway Meadow Cir Unit A · Pewaukee, WI 53072-6415 · USA

Grow your business with  mailchimp