



Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club



*"The ARRL's oldest
affiliated club"*



HAMATEUR CHATTER

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

2nd Quarter 2022

In This Issue

- From The President's Shack
- From The Past President's Shack
- Treasurer's Financial Report
- Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Member Meeting Summary
- Committee Reports
- Events, Activities and Projects
- ARISS Update
- Field Day 2022
- Summer Picnic
- Simplex Contest Results
- Ham Radio Boot Camp

- Rookie Net
- Join In The Fun
- Member News
- Member Resources
- New Product Insider
- VEC Testing
- Officers and Board of Directors
- Meetings and Nets
- V/UHF Nets Regional Listing

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This Saturday - May 21
10:00 am at Ham Radio Outlet - Milwaukee
Meeting & Auction

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



Greetings from your new President!

I'm honored to be following Dave who has led and sustained this club for many years and has decided to back off a leadership role to enjoy his hobby and family. Congratulations. Thank you. Enjoy.

I'm also excited for all the opportunities in front of us this year as we continue to emerge from the solitude COVID placed us in. We learned a lot about being adaptive and flexible which will lead us to expanded possibilities as we move

forward with new or renewed interests and behaviors in the hobby and the club.

I've been on the Board for the past couple of years and VP for the last year. I used to be a President for a Chamber of Commerce, you know, members, boards and committees, dues, events and activities. So I have that kind of experience. But ham radio is way more fun! I spent most of my career in marketing, specifically advertising and digital communications, so you may see some of that influence come forth, too.

As you can see from my picture, I am very comfortable operating out in the field working POTA or just having fun operating under a tree near a lake. And I'm equally comfortable leading focus discussions to uncover hidden interests our club can pursue, as did those that emerged at our recent membership meeting. We learned a lot in the April meeting and the Board and I look forward to addressing the top priorities you've expressed at our next Board meeting on May 23.

During this past year and a half, we implemented a number of initiatives to grow and engage our membership, educate and share our collective knowledge, and increase the awareness of our club. It is my belief that for the MRAC to sustain itself as a membership organization we need to provide value for membership; that is, engage with and enhance the evolving interests of our members. So what's this mean?

We listen. We act. We have fun.

For now, welcome back to in-person meetings, events, and activities. Where practical, we'll continue to engage a Zoom audience until the end of the year to include our members for whom travel presents an obstacle or challenge. And it enables us to provide distant speakers who will bring a high level of interest or expertise to our meetings.

Please join us at the next membership meeting on Saturday, May 21. We'll introduce you to our new Board of Directors, those who will be acting on your behalf for this year and beyond. You'll enjoy a return to our annual auction whether you buy something or just have fun watching Curt "ham it up." And if the weather is good, we'll head off to nearby Havenwoods State Park for a Parks On The Air activation after the meeting.

Board of Directors for 2022-2023

President: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

Vice President: Roger Heindl, AC9BT

Secretary: Tom Pachner, W9TJP

Treasurer: Dale Webler, AB9DW

Directors: Dean Berglund, KC9REN; Ted Carlson, N9KQQ; Tony Satariano, KD9NXU

Please contact any one of the above with your ideas.

Dick Strassburger
N9EEE

PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER



I want to thank the great members of this organization for supporting me as club President for the last 10 years. While I have decided to step out of the club leadership, I plan on still being an active member. I will continue working on several of the club activities I have been involved in over the years. My next task will be organizing a return to an in-person Field Day in June. I will also continue to organize the MAARS and MRAC picnic on August 13th.

During our Saturday morning club meetings, I plan on working with Dale AB9DW and Roger AC9BT to provide AV support for our club meetings. Moving forward I think hybrid meetings (inclusive of Zoom) will be very beneficial to our membership. This will also allow us to get presenters from out of state to our meetings. I see this also helps us stay connected to members who cannot attend a meeting in person.

Since we moved back to in-person meetings there were some who suggested that we continue a Zoom gathering on the last Thursday of the month for social purposes. These Zoom meetings will be a social gathering with no planned program or club business. I have offered to organize these Zoom gatherings starting May 26th at 7 pm. Please use the link below to join the meeting:

[Monthly Zoom Gathering](#)

Meeting ID: 837 2598 2542

Passcode: 28490

Dave Schank
KA9WXN
President

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Account Balances

Petty Cash: \$20 (Held by treasurer)

PayPal: \$56

Checking: \$6,840

CD #1: \$5,178

CD #2: \$7,635

Total all accounts: \$19,730

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale Webler, AB9DW, MRAC Treasurer

Joe Schwarz, N9UX, ex-MRAC Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS SUMMARY

March and April 2022

Treasurer Report: The Treasurer provided a report on current Treasurer activities. He indicated that there were eight renewals and new members in the last period.

Membership Committee: Dick, N9EEE, presented the membership survey regarding meeting preferences: Thursday evenings, Saturday mornings, or hybrid Thursday Zoom/Saturday breakfast informal gathering. There was an overwhelming preference to shift to Saturday morning meetings. After discussion, the Board decided to hold the membership meeting at 10:00 AM on the third Saturday of the month at HRO Training Room. The meeting dates for the next few months are April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20 and September 17. The May meeting will be a combination of an outdoor tailgate and a club auction. The June meeting will include planning for Field Day. The monthly Board of Directors meeting will be held on the first Monday following the membership meeting. The Board thanked Tom, W9TJP, for the availability of the HRO Training Room for club meetings.

At the April Board meeting, the new Board of Directors was presented and new officers selected. For 2022-2023, the Board of Directors and Officers are:

Dick Strassburger, N9EEE, President

Roger Heindl, AC9BT, Vice President

Tom Pachner, W9TJP, Secretary

Dale Webler, AB9DW, Treasurer

Tony Satariano, KD9NXU, Director

Dean Berglund, KC9REN, Director

Ted Carlson, N9KQQ, Director

Outgoing officers will be coordinating with the incoming officer to provide a smooth transition.

The wingham program is up and running. New hams are being assigned a wingham to help get them acclimated to the club.

Net Control Committee: No Report

Field Day: Approval to use the MATC Oak Creek location is pending final approval. A committee will be formed to plan the operation.

ARISS Project: The final parts required to setup the system for ARISS operation have been obtained and checked for proper fit. The next step is to setup the complete system and check the operation of the components working together. Pictures of the system have been posted on the Club Facebook Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/milwaukeehamradio/permalink/1010725093131674/>

Simplex Contest: Logs for the contest are coming in slowly.

MRAC 105 Special Event Station: Certificates have been sent to people who contacted the W9RH during the special event station held at HRO in January.

Hams Helping Hams: There was one request that was completed by Dave, KA9WXN. This was to install a 10-meter dipole in an assisted living apartment for Peter, KD9JAE a new club member. Another request was completed by Dick, N9EEE who counseled new club member Dennis, KD9ULM on building his first ham radio station.

The club is looking for more members who are willing to be an Elmer to assist a Ham with problems and questions. The list of Elmers will be updated to indicate their areas of expertise.

Ham Radio Boot Camp: Dick, N9EEE reported on the results of the Boot Camp. The camp was a success. There were 21 Hams attending. The attendees asked for more workshops. Board discussion centered around expanding the presentations. The next Boot Camp is proposed for October 22, 2022.

Marketing Committee: A discussion on the response rate to e-communications was held. The rate for the membership meeting question survey was a 45% response. Newsletters typically generate a 57% response.

To promote the Club the Board approved having a table at the Ozaukee RC Swapfest on April 30.

A number of methods to promote the Hatin' Dayton Tailgate/Auction meeting on May 21 were identified. The Club will distribute the information by the widest means available.

Repeater/Technical Committee: The Board has decided to sell our spare DR-2X repeater for \$500.00 to Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club (Nate, KC9TSO). The transaction will be completed in May.

There is no update on the development of the Fusion Guidelines for the repeater.

Compiled and submitted by Ted Carlson, N9KQQ, ex- Secretary

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOTES

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 16, 2022

Meeting Open: President, Dave Schank, KA9WXN, welcomed everyone in attendance back to in-person meetings. 21 members in attendance. Three members attended via Zoom.

Introductions. new members were announced, welcomed into the club, and received membership certificates. Remaining members introduced themselves.

Treasurer's Report: The club is in good financial standing with over \$19,000 in savings, CDs, and petty cash accounts. No outstanding bills pending.

No other committee reports.

Program: Vice President, Dick, N9EEE, led a group discussion, "Focus Feedback," regarding new opportunities to consider and old activities to discontinue. Noting how the change in meeting day, time, and venue for our membership meetings has evolved, he wanted to explore other club activities. Other topics emerged showing how our attitudes and needs have changed in the past couple of years. Members joined in with numerous ideas and opportunities to be considered by the Board and the members themselves. (That content follows this report).

Meeting concluded.

Focus Feedback

MEETING PROGRAMS

1. Operating

2. Technical
3. Show & Tell

Topics:

- Getting started on Digital, APRS, WSPR
- Understanding RBN & spotting networks, SDR, Linked Repeaters, 6 meter propagation, 10 meter propagation, Ground wave communications
- include workshops or demos with learning topics

REPEATER / TECHNICAL

- Echolink
- Digital Hub (include DMR, D-Star)

ACTIVITIES

- Fox Hunt
- Parks On The Air activations (following warm weather member meetings)

WORKSHOPS

- Build-a-thon
- Equipment test

HAMS HELPING HAMS

- Direct contact vs online form
- (note: need to update list of Elmers and their areas of expertise)

WEBSITE

- Update design
- Use of website. Use of Facebook. (Purpose)

IDEAS THAT DID NOT RESONATE STRONGLY AS A FOCUS

Technician Class training
Classified Ads on Website
Weekly lunch or breakfast
Local park activation (random)
UHF digital repeater

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We're experiencing huge growth in the first few months of 2022. Thanks to everyone spreading the word via friends, Nets, and helping other Hams.

Our "new member welcome process" needs an additional "wingman." If you're

an advocate of MRAC and would like to guide a new member or two during their first year in the club, contact Joe Schwarz, N9UX, or Dick Strassburger, N9EEE.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the MRAC club table at the Ozaukee RC Swapfest.

If you're working on a project, share the details and upload a picture or two on our new Facebook

Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/milwaukeehamradio>

If you have writing skills and would like to become a contributor or even the editor of Hamateur Chatter, contact us and we'll give you the skinny.

REPEATER / TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Repeater operation. WIRES-X node. A/V equipment. Website backend. We're the guys that keep everything running. If you'd like to learn more about repeaters and Fusion, contact us about joining our group.

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

**Milwaukee Radio
Amateurs' Club**

ACTIVITIES

Auction - May 21
Tailgate - May 21
Picnic - Aug 13
Ham Radio
Boot Camp - Oct 1
Maker Faire - Oct 22

EVENTS

Field Day - June 25-26
JOTA - Oct 16
POTA - various

**NOT
MAKIN'
DAYTON
TAILGATE
SWAPFEST**



**Saturday May 21
8:00 am - 9:45 am**

FREE - No Fees!

**Open your tailgate or prop a table,
and sell some ham radio related stuff.**

**Ham Radio Outlet - Parking Lot
5710 W Good Hope Rd**

All Hams are welcome.

(MRAC Auction to follow at 10:00 am)



MRAC ANNUAL AUCTION

Saturday, May 21, 2022

10:00 am

Ham Radio Outlet - Enter via the Meeting Room

5710 W Good Hope Road, Milwaukee

All Hams Are Welcome

Items for auction:

- anything ham radio-related or electronics-related, including radios, keys, headsets, mics, antennas, wire, bench tools, connectors, kit parts, test equipment, computers, monitors, etc
- must be usable

Sellers:

- No fees or commissions
- bring your items to the auction tables before 10:00 am. Doors will open at 9:30 am
- mark your items with your call sign and starting bid price - \$1.00? \$2.00? (remember, you're not going to get rich off of this so go low and have fun with this)
- all prices must be in whole dollars, no cents
- consider donating all or some of your proceeds to the club

Bidders:

- raise your hand and shout "*I want it!*" when bidding
- this is "pay as you go," meaning after you have won an item, please immediately go to the cashier table to pay. Cash is preferred. Checks are accepted. No CC.
- pick up your item after the bidding closes

Tailgaters: you're invited to put what you don't sell at the Tailgate Swapfest up for auction. Make sure you have your items indoors on the auction table by 10:00 am.

Questions??? Contact Joe, N9UX; Dale, AB9DW; or Dick, N9EEE



FIELD DAY 2022

In-person Field Day is Back!

After a two-year hiatus, we will again hold an in-person ARRL Field Day on June 25th and 26th. We encourage all Amateurs to take part in Field Day to gain training experience in portable operations. And this is a great time for our new club members to get on the air, meet other club members, and experience field radio operations.

Location: MATC Police and Fire Training Center, 6665 South Howell Avenue Oak Creek, WI 53154-1107. (See map on website).

Field Day Site: Police and Fire Training Area on the far west side of campus. The map below is marked with the two routes to the training center.

Set-up: begins at 1:00 pm on Friday afternoon. (we hope to be done so we check into the MRAC 10-meter net on 28.490MHz at 8 pm).

Planning meeting: May 24 at 7 pm via Zoom. Please use the link and log-in below.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6194256030?
pwd=bTZ2c29nb3ZmWFdKd1FCMTBhbnZkdOQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6194256030?pwd=bTZ2c29nb3ZmWFdKd1FCMTBhbnZkdOQT09)

Meeting ID: 619 425 6030

Passcode: fieldday

General Info: We usually have several HF stations on the air with multiple antennas to use. These stations will operate CW, Digital, and SSB. We will also have a 6 and 2-meter station setup for weak signal work. Our AIRSS group is planning on setting up our portable Satellite system. If you want to experiment with your own antennas and equipment feel free to bring it out

We invite everyone to attend and experience Field Day. Our overriding intent is to set up working stations for people to operate without the pressure of a achieving high scores such as in a contest. This is for fun!. Aside from the operating and social aspect, we'll be demonstrating amateur radio to the general public. So please join us this year and help make this a great time.

Dave Schank
Chairman, Field Day Committee

MRAC 2022 V/UHF SIMPLEX CONTEST RESULTS

The 2022 Simplex Contest was held on February 27th. We had great weather this year with a high temp of 40 degrees and partly cloudy skies. There was good activity on the bands with several new callsigns heard, including new members. Facebook promotion did get a few more people on the air. While we had nice activity on the air we only had 12 log submissions from 2 different local clubs. We again had several ties for band awards this year. The Rover team of K9FI and K9WOC did a great job activating grids and keeping the activity at a level high on all the bands. The activity on digital was good this year with a slight increase in contacts. Fusion was by far the most popular with D-Star only accounting for one contact.

Facebook Comment from Josh Miskowski KC9HYR: *"Thanks for the post. Made me actually turn on a radio and throw my call out there for the first time in a very long time."*

I want to thank all who participated this year. Looking forward to working you again in 2023.

Dave KA9WXN
Chairman, Simplex Contest Committee

RESULTS

Awards	
Base 1st Place	AA9RK
Base 2nd Place	WB9BWP
Mobile 1st Place	N9EEE, K9WOC, K9FI
Mobile 2nd Place	N9KQQ
2 M 1st Place	N9EEE
2 M 2nd Place	K9WOC, K9FI
70 cm 1st Place	N9EEE
70 cm 2nd Place	KB9E
6 Meter 1st Place	AA9RK
6 Meter 2nd Place	WB9BWP
1.25 M 1st Place	AA9RK
1.25 M 2nd Place	K9WOC, K9FI, WB9BWP
Digital 1st Place	N9EEE
Digital 2nd Place	AA9RK
Club 1st Place	Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
Club 2nd Place	West Allis Radio Amateur Club

SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, August 13
Greenfield Park (West Allis) - Picnic Area #2

Food & Drinks
Games
Portable Radio Ops


Watch our website for more details in August.

ROOKIE NET

Tuesdays at 8:00 pm
MRAC Repeater - 145.390 MHz

Created specifically for recently licensed amateur radio operators and those re-entering the hobby. Questions? We've got answers. OMs are invited to share their expertise.



The background of the flyer is a light beige color, framed by a decorative border of stylized leaves in various shades of green and brown. The leaves are arranged in a way that they appear to be growing around the central text area.

HAM RADIO BOOT CAMP

GET ON THE AIR WITH CONFIDENCE

FREE TO NEWLY LICENSED AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

LEARNING SESSIONS

HANDLING MIC FRIGHT
STRUCTURE OF A QSO (SIMPLEX, REPEATER, NETS, HF)
WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A TECHNICIAN CLASS LICENSE
WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A GENERAL CLASS LICENSE
SETTING UP YOUR FIRST BASE STATION
SETTING UP YOUR FIRST MOBILE STATION
GOING PORTABLE

WORKSHOPS

ESSENTIALS OF A HAM RADIO WORKBENCH
SOLDERING TECHNIQUES
CREATE A DIPOLE ANTENNA

EXPERTS Q & A FORUM

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2022

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

TRAINING ROOM - HAM RADIO OUTLET (MILWAUKEE)

RSVP REQUIRED - LIMITED ATTENDANCE
HAMDIOBOOTCAMP@W9RH.ORG

LED BY MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB

ARISS UPDATE



ARISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station

MRAC ARISS PROJECT UPDATE

The ARISS Project has completed the construction of the antenna system. At this point we have a working satellite ground station capable of meeting the requirements for communicating with the ISS. It meets the special requirements required by NASA and the ARISS corporation. It is also capable of communicating with other amateur radio satellites and can be used for other demonstrations. The plan at this time is to take the system to Field Day for a full in the field test of the complete operating system.

Submitted by Ted Carlson N9KQQ

ARISS STATION REQUIREMENTS

RADIO SET-UP REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECT CONTACT

ARISS has specific requirements for the Amateur Radio station conducting the radio contact with the International Space Station. This is needed because the maximum total available contact time for the station pass will not exceed ten minutes. Therefore, they require a primary and a backup station at the event site.

Minimum station requirements for the **primary station** (radio station #1) are:

1. Transmitter output power of at least 50-100 watts, 1-kHz tuning steps, 21 memories capable of storing split frequencies, and computer control of doppler shift
2. Mast mounted receive pre-amp
3. Low-loss coax (9913 or LMR-400)
4. OSCAR style circular polarized beam antenna with switched circular polarity capability
5. Computer controlled azimuth (0-360 degrees) and elevation (0-180 degree) rotor required.
6. Computer tracking software for antenna control (Including flip mode operation)

Minimum station requirements for the **backup station** (radio station #2) are:

1. Transmitter output power of at least 50-100 watts, 1-kHz tuning steps, and 21 memories capable of storing split frequencies
2. Power amplifier with 100-200 watts output (optional)

3. Mast mounted receive pre-amp
4. Low-loss coax (9913 or LMR-400)
5. Omnidirectional antenna (vertical or eggbeater style)
6. Uninterruptable power source

HAMS HELPING HAMS

Hams Helping Hams™

"What's In Your Wheelhouse?"

It's a tradition in the amateur radio hobby for Hams to lend their experience and expertise to those who need a helping hand, or mind. We started HAMS HELPING HAMS™ over a year and a half ago and have had a variety of requests to fulfill. Thankfully, our small group of Elmers have been there for them. Here are some examples:

Greg, KD9JTI, was seeking advice on grounding his equipment at his new home. His Elmer dispelled a few myths that could have led him astray, and recommended a grounding pattern that would provide a safe and RFI-free connection.

Dennis, KD9ULM, is just getting on the air and putting together a starter ham shack on a small budget. Over several conversations with his Elmer discussing where his interests are and what would give him the most enjoyment, Dennis purchased his radio, antenna, and feedline.

Peter, KD9JAE, resides in assisted living with no access (or permission) to erect an outside antenna. Drawing upon stealth antenna experience, his Elmer helped install an indoor 10 meter antenna for Peter to get on the air.

=== BE AN ELMER ===

If you're interested in sharing your background, expertise, experience, and/or knowledge and joining our group of Elmers and the HAMS HELPING HAMS™ program, [complete this form](#). Consider this is a give-back for all the times you were helped by another Ham.

If you're interested but need more details about the program, contact [Dick Strassburger](#), N9EEE

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

February

Carter Davis - W9ERR (ex AC9ZV)
Rich Hawthorne - KD9QLT
Kenn Nelan - KN9KJN
Pierre Porter - KD9SSY
Peter Reichmann - KD9JAE
Jeff Weber - AD9AB (ex KD9KBI)
Dan Workenaour - N9ASA

March

Dennis Czajkowski - KD9ULM
Mike Johnson - WO9B
Bill GreaveS - K9GN

April

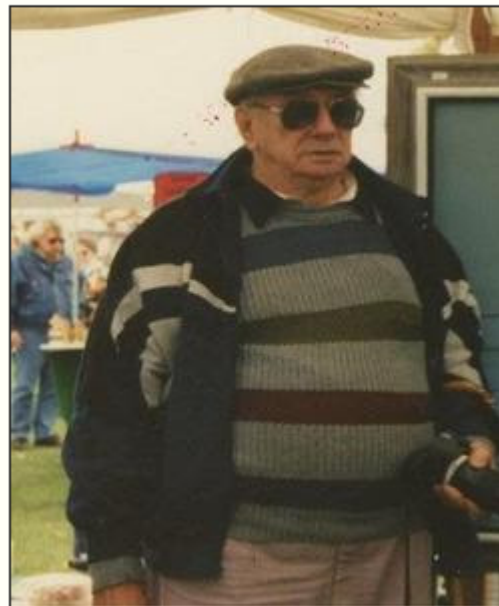
Christopher Solon - KD9TJN
Jim Karpowitz - KS9Q
Sue Karpowitz - KB9WAP

(Reprinted from The ARRL Letter, April 28, 2022)

One Family Celebrates Generations of Amateur Radio Operators

For nearly 60 years, the Stewart family in Wisconsin has had more in common than their last name -- they seem to have amateur radio in their DNA.

It all started with Orville Stewart, WN9IOP/KA9ONQ (SK). He worked in advertising for a local brewing company, and it was his supervisor, an amateur radio operator, who first suggested that he get licensed. Orville asked his son, Walter "Bud" Stewart, to come along to



Orville Stewart, WN9IOP/KA9ONQ (SK).

classes at the old Allied Radio company, and both passed the exam. Orville operated phone and AM and started The Southeast Wisconsin Information Net on 2-meters, the first in Wisconsin.

He went on to become treasurer of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Inc., W9RH, which was founded in 1917 and is one of the oldest amateur radio clubs in the world. Orville became a Silent Key in 1999, after spending almost 30 years as a ham.

But the story doesn't end there. Bud, N0KBS (formerly WN9INY), is now celebrating 58 years as a ham, thanks to his father's interest in the hobby. Bud's son

Dustin, KI4ZER, also joined the family legacy, and his son, Tyler, is just waiting for his call sign to get posted by the FCC so he can get on the air. It seems that Tyler, without any prodding from his father or grandfather, became interested in amateur radio at his college radio club at the University of Central Florida.

The Stewart family's story is just one the many remarkable stories that amateur radio generates. Bud says it's not just the radio that he enjoys, it's the friends you make and keep for decades and the legacy you leave behind.



Bud Stewart, N0KBS (formerly WN9INY).



Father and son, Dustin Stewart, KI4ZER (left), and Tyler Stewart, who has a pending ham radio license.

A VOLUNTEER SPEAKS UP

"Give a little bit"

With apologies to Supertramp for the title, the song title really hits a point on how you can help the club. Even a little bit of time can help the club to be active and fun. Sometimes all it takes is checking into a net, helping another ham, or participating at an in-person event. Everyone has something to bring to the club.

We have plenty of activities, some new, some have been around for a while. The Rookie Net can use participation from both new and old hams, Field Day is coming up quick, the ARISS project can use help, Ham Radio Boot Camp will be held again in the fall, and the picnic can always use good food.

Over the past years, I have been fortunate to be able to help out on a number of club activities, such as the FM Simplex contest, club Swapfest, and serving on the Board in a number of roles. This has been rewarding in a variety of ways; learning more about the hobby, improving my operating skills, and most importantly, meeting a lot of great hams.

Don't know where you might be able to help? Just ask, Board members, wing-hams, ask another member, or on a Net. So "give a little bit" in any way you can.

Joe Schwarz, N9UX
Membership Committee & wingham
Former Board member
Former Treasurer

HELP WANTED

There are many ways to volunteer. Be like Joe:

Participate at Field Day (set-up, take-down, operate on air, log contacts)
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 - be a Ham Helping Hams
Plan our next Swapfest
Help at Ham Radio Bootcamp (room facilitator, workshop mentor, counselor)
Membership Committee (club ambassador at swapfests and events, direct mail)
Marketing Committee (publicity for events and activities; FaceBook posts)
Workshops - show us how to build something
Demonstrations - show us how to utilize new tools or on air modes

So, what interests you?
Contact any Board member and you'll be put to good use.

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

"Volunteer to volunteer."

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

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 You can find additional information about local digital activity at milwaukeeedigital.org.

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

- Tom Pachner, W9TJP

SELLING HAM RADIO

This is adapted from what I tell my sales staff. We face this daily with people whose only knowledge of ham radio comes from TV, movies, and now, podcasts.

There is always talk about what we can do to get more people into the hobby.

I've heard lots of good (and bad) ideas. However, I believe there is a problem that needs to be addressed first. We don't know how to "sell" the hobby. I've made most of the mistakes I'm going to point out myself so I speak from experience.

Selling Ham Radio

When I'm at a social function and the conversation turns to what do I do for a living, I mentally take a deep breath because I know what's coming next after I tell them. I usually hear: People still do that? What is ham radio? Didn't cell phones make ham radio obsolete?

Sadly, It's at this point that most hams fail at selling the hobby.

Take a moment and think about how you'd answer those questions. How many times has it happened to you and what have you said? Do you have prepared responses that you use?

The question I hear the most is, "Didn't cell phones making ham radio obsolete?" Instead of using that question as an opening to sell the hobby, I've seen most hams jump onto a soap box and talk about how their radio will still work when the cell phone network goes down. On its face that sounds like the correct answer. The problem is usually how that information is conveyed. Most times I've heard this happen, the ham speaking sounds condescending and just lectures them. I would suggest the correct response should be "That's a great question, the advantages of ham radio over cell phones are...."

The best response to get is "What can you do with ham radio?" To me that means they have a spark of interest in the hobby. Again, we are our own worst enemy. I've actually heard something like this from an older ham to a prospective ham - "It's a great hobby. I'm mostly on HF and chase DX but I also talk to my friends on the Wisconsin Florida net."

What's HF? What's DX? What's a net? A non-ham most likely has no clue what any of that means.

Like in the above example, the toughest habit to break with my sales staff is to stop using ham radio jargon with a newbie. A question we commonly hear is "What do I need to start out?" The worst response, that I've heard many times, is to say "Most people start out with a 2 meter HT or sometimes they get a dual band"

What's 2 meters? What's a HT? What does dual band mean?

What if you instead said, "Most people start with a battery powered handheld radio that allows you talk to other ham radio operators in SE Wisconsin. There are also devices and methods you can use that allow you to connect with hams around the state or even in other parts of the world."

I know it sounds oversimplified but it's better to start each interaction assuming they know nothing. If a non-ham, or even a newbie ham, has some basic

knowledge they will let you know. You can then adjust how to talk to them. If you educate at the same time that could be fine but still has the potential of confusing someone. For example you could say, "I work DX. That's shorthand in the hobby for saying I had a conversation with another station that is far away."

Don't try to cover every facet of ham radio. Ask them what they've heard about the hobby and what they find interesting. If they don't know specifically why they're interested I'd cover no more than 3 things. Maybe DX, contesting and public service. Except don't say DX. I'd also talk about the camaraderie of the hobby - breakfasts, club meetings, antenna raising parties, etc.

Lastly, leave out your personal opinions about the hobby. Don't lament the code requirement going away or how they've "dumbed down" the exams. Only talk about positive things. Remember, you're trying to sell it.

In summary, I would suggest we do some version of the following to help us "sell" the hobby:

1. Think about the questions you frequently get asked and have prepared responses. Be prepared for follow-up questions. I would suggest sitting down and writing some out. Practice on friends and family.
2. Don't talk down to non-hams. We all started with zero knowledge of the hobby. Also, nobody is impressed by how much you think you know.
3. Don't try to talk about every facet of the hobby. Use broad strokes.
4. Don't use ham radio jargon. Avoid VHF, UHF, HF, D-Star, DMR, Fusion, C4FM, CW, side band, meter, band, DX, hotspots, etc. That's nothing but gibberish to a non-ham.

Tom, W9TJP
Manager, Ham Radio Outlet (Milwaukee)

MEMBER RESOURCES

W9RH.org IS YOUR INFORMATION RESOURCE

Newly added or updated:

- Meeting Date and Program
- Field Day
- Southeast Wisconsin VHF and UHF Nets
- FM Simplex Contest Results
- Ham Radio Boot Camp
- Member Directory
- Club Leadership
- 2nd Quarter Newsletter (Hamateur Chatter)

Southeastern Wisconsin VHF/UHF Amateur Radio Net Directory

Revision: 1.7.0 Dated 04/28/22

Fred Schwierske, W9KEY

Report Changes / Corrections to: w9key@arrl.net

Day	Time (Central)	Net Name	Freq MHz	Offset	PL CTCSS	Location	Comments	Active
Daily	7:30 AM	Bkfst	144.155	USB	N/A	*Simplex*	Breakfast RoundTable	???
Daily	5:00 PM	HappyHour	147.270	+600 kHz	127.3	Racine	Lakeshore Repeater Assn Happy Hour Net - Racine	X
Sun	9:00 AM	X-Country	145.565	FM	N/A	*Simplex*	Cross-Country Simplex Group FM Net	???
Sun	10:30 AM	Sheb Co Net	147.060	+600 kHz	107.2	Sheboygan	Sheboygan County ARC Sunday Morning Net	X
Sun	8:00 PM	PSA Net	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Public Service Announcement Net - Milwaukee Repeater Club	X
Sun	9:00 PM	Swap Net	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Buy & Sell Radio & Computer Gear - Milwaukee Repeater Club	X
Mon	6:30 PM	Kids Net	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Kids Corner Net, Youth on the Air- Milwaukee Repeater Club	X
Mon	7:30 PM	MN-WIS	145.390	-600 kHz	127.3	Milwaukee	Minn-Wis Yaesu (C4FM) Digital System Fusion Net - MRAC.	X
Mon	8:00 PM	M5OE	145.270	-600 kHz	127.3	Milwaukee	Milwaukee School of Engineering W9HHX Repeater 2m Net.	X
Mon	8:00 PM	Emergency	146.445	FM	N/A	*Simplex*	Emergency Net	???
Mon	8:00 PM	ARES	146.865	-600 kHz	127.3	Elkhorn	ARES Walworth Co, ARRL Audio News	X
Mon	8:00 PM	Sheb Co Net	147.060	+600 kHz	107.2	Sheboygan	Sheboygan County ARC Fun Net	X
Mon	8:00 PM	WIARC	442.875	+5 MHz	127.3	Germantown	Wis Amateur Radio Club W9CQ Net, Echolink 576754	X
Mon	8:30 PM	ARES	147.165	+600 kHz	127.3	Milwaukee	Milwaukee/Waukesha County ARES Net	X
Tue	7:00 PM	Open Topic	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Open Topic Discussion Net - Milwaukee Repeater Club	X
Tue	8:00 PM	SSB Net	145.250	USB	N/A	*Simplex*	Badger Contester's Net	???
Tue	8:00 PM	Rookie Net	145.390	-600 kHz	127.3	Milwaukee	Rookie Net - Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club W9RH	X
Tue	8:00 PM	AM Net	145.700	AM	N/A	*Simplex*	Amplitude Modulation 2 Meter Net, 2nd Tue of each month	X
Tue	8:00 PM	ORC	146.970	-600 kHz	127.3	Cedarburg	Ozaukee Radio Club Tuesday Net, linked with 224.180 repeater	X
Tue	8:00 PM	ORC	224.180	-1.6 MHz	127.3	Cedarburg	Same ORC Tuesday Net, linked with 146.970 repeater	X
Tue	8:30 PM	FM Net	223.500	FM	N/A	*Simplex*	Cross-Country Simplex Group	???
Wed	7:00 PM	Open Topic	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Open Topic Discussion Net - Milwaukee Repeater Club	X
Wed	7:30 PM	Pub Service	147.270	+600 kHz	127.3	Racine	Lakeshore Repeater Assn Public Service Net - Racine	X
Wed	8:00 PM	ARES	147.270	+600 kHz	127.3	Racine	Racine Co. ARES followed by Swap Net	???
Wed	8:00 PM	Westside Net	440.200	+5 MHz	127.3	Waukesha	Westside Amateur Radio Club FM Net	X
Wed	9:00 PM	Swapnet	145.130	-600 kHz	127.3	Milwaukee	MAARS / Allstar SwapNet	X
Thu	7:00 PM	Tech-Net	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Technology Net - Milwaukee Repeater Club	X
Thu	8:00 PM	Elmer Net	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Exchange Info, Answer Questions - Milwaukee Repeater Club	X
Thu	8:00 PM	ARES Oz Co	147.330	+600 kHz	127.3	Port Wash	Ozaukee County ARES Net - 1st & 2nd Thursdays	X
Thu	8:00 PM	Tech-Net	443.800	+5 MHz	123.0	Milwaukee	FM 38 Tech-Net	X
Thu	8:15 PM	ARES WashCo	147.210	+600 kHz	127.3	Slinger	Washington County ARES Net - Slinger	X
Thu	9:00 PM	QCWA-Net	147.270	+600 kHz	127.3	Racine	Q.C.W.A Net (Quarter Century Wireless Association) - Racine	???
Fri	7:00 PM	Open Topic	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Open Topic Discussion Net - Milwaukee Repeater Club	X
Fri	9:00 PM	MRAC Net	145.390	-600 kHz	127.3	Milwaukee	Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club 2m Net W9RH	X
Sat	7:00 PM	MRAC-Dig	145.390	-600 kHz	127.3	Milwaukee	MRAC Yaesu (C4FM) Digital System Fusion Net	X
Sat	8:00 PM	America Link	145.390	-600 kHz	127.3	Milwaukee	MRAC America Link Yaesu (C4FM) Digital System Fusion Net	X
Sat	8:00 PM	PinkHamster	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	Pink Hamsters Young Ladies Net (No Men) - MRC	X
Sat	8:00 PM	LEFROG	442.775	+5 MHz	127.3	Mequon	LEFROG Club Roundtable Discussion - informal	X
Sat	9:00 PM	Fun Net	146.910	-600 kHz	127.3	New Berlin	General Discussion Fun Net - Milwaukee Repeater Club	X

Click [HERE](#) to view and download this document.



FACEBOOK GROUP

Welcome to our 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



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.

MRAC VEC TESTING

FCC Licensing Update

New FCC rules affecting Amateur Radio licensing went into effect on April 19, 2022 regarding a fee structure and licensing process. Please visit the MRACVEC.org website for more information.

The fee structure is:

New Application (Technician)	\$35.00
License Upgrades	No Fee
Renewals	\$35.00
Vanity Call	\$35.00

Upcoming Test Dates

- May 28, 2022
- July 30, 2022
- September 24, 2022 (during HRO Superfest)
- October 29, 2022
- November 26, 2022
- December 31, 2022

Attention: Technician Class License pool changes July 1, 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
- Do Not bring the \$35 application fee. You will receive an email from the FCC with instructions for fees payable to the FCC

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

(Interesting News from their website)

March 26, 2022 Test Session Recap

It was a good test session, with a total of 9 candidates attending. Everyone left with new or upgraded licenses.

Candidates earned the following licenses:

Technician: 4

General: 2

Extra: 2

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

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MEETINGS AND NETS

MEETINGS

...are held the third Saturday of every month. We continue to offer a virtual attendance for those facing travel or health reasons. View our website for current information.

Meeting Dates and Presentation:

May 21: Auction

June 18: Field Day. Mesh Networking Workshop

July 16: APRS 101 with a Demo: How IrishFest Buses Stayed on Track

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](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: w9rh@arrl.net
WEBSITE: W9RH.org
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/MRAC.W9RH



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Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 26938
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