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**Milwaukee
Radio
Amateurs'
Club**



*"The ARRL's oldest
affiliated club"*



HAMATEUR CHATTER

Editor: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE
Proofreader: Ted Carlson, N9KQQ
2022

4th Quarter

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



Greetings!

Volunteer Recognition Month

Though we do a great job recognizing those who participate in running Club activities, for the past couple of years I've been using November as a time to overtly recognize and thank all of our Club volunteers for their eagerness, commitment, and skillfulness in planning and/or implementing the various events, activities, or leadership that make MRAC a vibrant Club that members are proud to belong.

It starts with leadership. This year we focused on creating a Committee structure whereby Board members took a more active leadership role thereby spreading out the work and generating new ideas. And what a fired up group this is: Roger Heindl (AC9BT), Tony Satariano (KD9NXU), Dale Webler (AB9DW), Dean Berglund (KC9REN), Ted Carlson (N9KQQ), and Tom Pachner (W9TJP).

I'm especially encouraged by our newer members, some of them new hams, who in their first year of membership have chosen to do more with their ham ticket besides talk on the radio and immerse themselves deeper into the hobby by volunteering. For example, you'll find Jeff Weber (AD9AB) setting up meetings or events; Carter Davis (W9ERR) and Kevin Reich (KD9PFG) running the Rookie Net; and Tony Satariano (KD9NXU) who is not only a Board member, but also became its Secretary, jumped into the fire at our Special Event station last January as well as help at event set-up. When you look at how these four have eagerly immersed themselves into various aspects of the Club, the word volunteer takes on new meaning. It's not drudgery. It's excitement. It's camaraderie. It's learning new skills. It's them making the Club be a Club.

Certainly, we have other volunteers to recognize, names and callsigns you know. Check out the list of volunteers, appearing down the page in Hamateur Chatter.

My last POTA outing for the year was during the 70F temps we had this past week. During the cold months ahead, I'll be hunting other activators and planning (dreaming) about my own future activations.

Enjoy your Fall. And, go out and play radio!

--73--

Dick Strassburger

N9EEE

President, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE FOR THE PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF NEW BYLAWS

Pursuant to the current Bylaws requiring a special meeting be held to address changes to those Bylaws, this serves as a notice of a special meeting to be held following a brief general membership meeting on November 19, 2022.

The Bylaws were necessarily rewritten to clarify and/or supplement

existing language, remove outdated or errant items, better identify the club structure and its processes, and to reflect and represent the current and future purpose of MRAC as it pursues a change in business status to 501c(3).

Please read the Bylaws in advance so we may address any questions you may have as we, the Board of Directors, seek your approval for acceptance.

([Bylaws PDF attachment](#))

Note: if you have any difficulty opening or downloading the attached PDF, please send me an email and I will reply with an attachment.
dick.strassburger@gmail.com

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Account Balances
as of 10/16/2022

Petty Cash: \$20

PayPal

Begin Bal: \$37.62

3 New memberships: \$56.43

Ending Bal: \$94.05

Checking

Begin Balance: \$7,189.43

Interest Income from CD's: \$2.47

P.O. Box Annual Fee: \$232.00

Ending Balance: \$6,959.90

CD1: \$5,178.94

CD2: \$7,635.60

Total: \$19,888.49

Respectfully Submitted,
Dale Webler, AB9DW, MRAC Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS SUMMARY

August, September, and October 2022

Strategic Priorities for 2022-2023 Term

1. Tighten up the administrative aspects of the club to reflect current interests and needs (see Organization) **Status of this is ongoing with Substantial Progress Being made.**
2. Create activities that encourage participation and socialization among members (see Activities) **On Going with premeeting breakfasts being attended, with room to grow. The restaurant is a good choice.**
3. Enhance existing activities or assets to reinvigorate vibrancy (see Reinvigorate) **Ongoing**

Organization

- Bylaws need updating. **By Laws have undergone vigorous scrutiny and a current document is in the final draft stage before being submitted to the membership.**
- Encourage greater participation on committees by Board and general members (list of committees) **On Going**
- Change of business type from Non-stock corporation to 501(c)3 to obtain grants and eliminate sales tax. **Currently in Progress with a favorable outcome expected to enhance the Clubs ability to better serve the membership and enhance our initiatives going forward.**
- Membership categories and fees review. **Board has discussed and revised the By-Laws to reflect a change in the membership categories and associated fees.**

Activities

- Focus Feedback ideas: **Ongoing with further input and ideas sought from the membership**
- Annual meeting, party, awards **Possibly the same weekend as HRO Superfest**
- Equipment inventory / radio station: **Ongoing**

Reinvigorate

- Repeater (Fusion Guidelines, Echo link) **Fusion Guidelines were discussed and approved.**
- Swapfest. **Currently the BOD is soliciting additional input from the membership and a visioning committee to determine a course of action to continue.**
- Superfest. **A very good exercise that continues to raise awareness for the Hobby. By far the largest space in the club section and an**

- impressive showing with new members as a result.**
- Summer Picnic-**Completed**, a good time was had by all. The BBQ was a big hit!

Change of organization status to 501c (3). **Ongoing**, the move eliminates sales tax and better qualifies the club for available grant money is going forward. Dick re-writing the Bylaws to qualify for 501c (3) status with Initial drafts of approved. Final set is currently under review which is required for approval.

Membership Committee: **Ongoing efforts to increase membership have shown positive results with increase in membership from Superfest and Ham Radio Boot Camp.**

ARISS Project: **Equipment was used at Maker Faire to good results. Ted made multiple contacts with teachers to promote the ARISS involving a school.**

Ham Radio Boot Camp: **Ham Radio Boot Camp held Saturday October 1 with a good turnout. A mini "mini boot camp" was held, held during the HRO Superfest. Dick and Dean provided a forum and workshop.**

Marketing Committee: **BOD still seeking a new editor for Hamateur Chatter.**

Repeater/Technical Committee: **The MRAC repeater is being evaluated to better serve the needs of the club.**

Workshops: **Dean has volunteered to lead the Workshop series to be held on the first Saturday of the month at 11 am starting in January 2023. Topics and materials needs were discussed, and a tentative timeline issued. Additional topics are requested.**

Meeting Summary August, September October

Saturday, August 20, 2022
No Meeting

Saturday September 19, 2022

Meeting Open: Dick, N9EEE welcomed members and guests.

Secretary Role: Tom Pachner resigned position as Secretary. The club thanks him for his service.

President's Report: The club's transition to a 501c (3) business status was presented. Club By laws Being adapted to modern requirements and to pass review for the 501c (3) status.

Financial Report: Dale presented the months finances are stable with no activity other than Interest income.

Membership Feedback: Favorable comments for plans for a Workshop series, and the repeater issues were noted.

Presentation: SDR Play

Announcements: Meeting concluded.

Saturday October 15, 2022

Meeting Open: Dick, N9EEE welcomed members and guests and noted JOTA concurrent with today's meeting.

President's Report: 501c (3) status and by-Laws update.

Financial Report: Finances are in good order with the only expense the annual PO Box Rental of \$232.00. A examination of the budget going forward is necessary considering a potential reduction of income.

Board of Directors Meeting Review: Primary discussions across 2 BOD meetings involved By-Laws changes and membership with an agreement to changes proposed

Membership Feedback: 4 New Members as a result of ongoing efforts to increase membership at Superfest.

Presentation & Workshop: Show and Tell with Ted explaining his portable station. Dick showing slides from this summer's POTA outings.

Announcements: Ham Radio Boot Camp October 1 was well attended. Rookie Net is every Tuesday evening at 8 pm. A Special Membership meeting to be held November 19th.

Meeting concluded.

Compiled by Tony KD9NXU, Secretary

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS



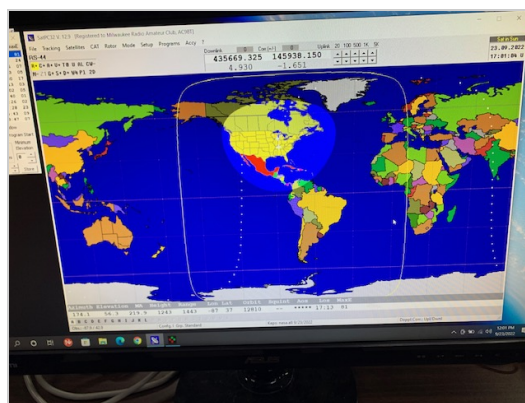
HRO SUPERFEST / ARRL CENTRAL DIVISION CONVENTION

Friday and Saturday, September 24 & 25

Over 400 attendees visited the warehouse full of manufacturers and vendors. MRAC dominated the "Club Corner" with a huge area showcasing the ARISS Project Team and equipment, MRAC history in pictures, videos, trophy and plaques, and our Membership Experience tables. We had several new member applications including our first Student Reciprocal (Noah, KD9VGM of MSOE). MRAC was also active in the education area providing a forum on How to Participate in Parks On The Air, and a workshop on Soldering Tips and Soldering Connectors. Thank you to Tom Pachner, W9TJP, for giving us the

opportunity for MRAC to shine. And to the volunteers who put it all together: Dick, N9EEE, Dean, KC9REN, Ted, N9KQQ, Tony, KD9NXU, Joe, N9UX, Carter, W9ERR, Dave, WB9BWP.

Submitted by Dick Strassburger, N9EEE



Saturday, October 15, 2022

Wally Smith with Three Harbors Council BSA called me a few months ago to ask if MRAC would be interested in doing JOTA again this year at Camp Oh-Da-Ko-Ta in Burlington, WI. Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. He said they were very happy with us last year and I said of course we would be happy to participate with the Scouts again. I mentioned this at our last club meeting and a few said you'd like to participate too. We also mentioned this activity during Superfest at HRO and one member of the MSOE Amateur Radio Club, Jacob O'Shaughnessy said he'd like to do this with us. Jacob was working on his Eagle Scout but then they moved to Milwaukee and he aged out of the program. He said he'd like to give something back to Scouts this way. Jacob, Joe N9UX, Dave WB9SXG, and myself Dean KC9REN met on Saturday morning Oct. 15, 2022 at aprox. 8:00 AM and setup our antennas and radios. Joe and Dave ran HF radios and I decided to run VHF/UHF this year. Jacob assisted setup and tear down and directed the Scouts to the stations. I used my Yaesu FTM-400 radio and connected through our repeater to Wires-X CQ-AMERICA Room # 21000. Wow, were we busy! There was almost a continuous amount of Scouts waiting to try out Ham Radio. We made so many contacts this year, I'll bet we had more than 150 or so Scouts get on the air to talk to other Hams and Scouts around the USA and Canada. We were able to help a group of Scouts working on their Radio Merit Badge this year too. I saw so many smiles on these Scout's faces. I've included a few pictures of us here. *(Editor: several members worked the scouts at JOTA from the general membership meeting at HRO).*

Submitted by
Dean Berglund, KC9REN
JOTA Coordinator



Maker Faire® Milwaukee

Discovery World Saturday and Sunday, October 22-23, 2022

On October 22nd and 23rd members of the MRAC participated in Maker Fair at the Discovery World Museum. Maker Fair is a gathering of many people who are interested in making things. It is possible to find displays that cover many different areas from science, art, electronics to building recreated robots from TV and movies and just about any other thing you could think of.

The club presentation was a display of amateur radio related items. We had morse code keys with the alphabet and the phonetic alphabet. The kids enjoyed playing with these alphabets and tried to send their name using them. Handouts from the ARRL on the aspects of our hobby were available for interested people. Several books from the ARRL library collection were on display to showed the educational support they provide to someone getting into the hobby.

The center piece of the display was the ARISS antenna system that we have built over the last few years. The system was running in real time. The computer was controlling the direction of the antenna and adjusting the doppler shift on the TS-2000 transceiver. It was not possible to receive any satellites because the system was inside a building but visitors could see the complete system operating.

Our goal in setting up the system was to find a school that had a STEM program and would be interested in having a direct contact with the ISS. Four schools indicated interest in the ARISS program. Time was spent with them to give them a feeling of the requirement they would have to commit to this project. The whole process could take up to 12 months to go from application to the actual contact. We now have to wait to see if the schools are willing to commit to the work required.

I want to thank the club members who gave their time to setup, man the display and teardown. Without their help this event would not have been a success.

Submitted by
Ted Carlson, N9KQQ
Maker Faire Coordinator



HAM RADIO BOOT CAMP

October 1, 2022

Session #2 of the Ham Radio Boot Camp saw fewer attendees than last February, but the participation and interest was just as high. Participants learned about what they could do with their Technician or General class license, practice on-air skills, and learned some hands-on workshop skills. Post-event surveys indicated we were on the right track with extending the six-hour boot camp by an extra hour devoted to workshops.

The next Ham Radio Boot Camp will be held in the 1st quarter of 2023. Watch the [web page](#) for exact dates.

Submitted by Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

MRAC/106

Saturday, January 21 & Sunday, January 22

In celebration of Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club 106th anniversary of continuous operation, MRAC will be on the air from the HRO Showroom on Saturday, January 21, between 11 am to 5 pm (following the club's membership meeting).

As a bonus, member stations may operate from home on Sunday, January 22 using the club callsign W9RH.

Watch your inbox and our special event station [web page](#) for operator sign-up and instructions.

MRAC WORKSHOPS

**First Saturdays at 11:00 am
Beginning January 7, 2023**

MRAC is initiating a new Workshops program focusing on build-a-thons, workshop tools, building technique, and project assistance. Beginning in 2023, workshops will be held on the first Saturday of each month, at 11:00 am at Ham Radio Outlet in Milwaukee (5710 W Good Hope Rd) at their training room next door. Your workshop master is Dean, KC9REN.

Upcoming Build-a-thons:

January 7: Tape Measure Antenna

February 4: 4 MHz Offset Attenuator (for fox hunting)

April: HF band pass filters

If you have any other ideas for future workshops, contact [Dean KC9REN](#).

Please go to our [website](#) for project pages that will contain information specific to these projects and other helpful information. **Due to the limited seating, all workshops require advance registration and participants are expected to supply their own necessary parts and tools.**

TAPE MEASURE ANTENNA

For our first Build-A-Thon, I thought we'd make a 2MTape Measure antenna. There seemed to be some great interest in this project at a previous membership meeting. A tape measure antenna can be used for many things such as SSTV, Fox hunting, Simplex conversations at greater distances or even talking through a repeater from a farther distance than your HT can do with a rubber duck antenna. I will be able to provide any tools you would need but of course you can bring your own tools if you want. I will have several soldering irons for you to use. You would need to obtain all the parts needed for the project though. You can get these at your favorite home improvement or hardware store. Coax and the BNC connectors can be supplied by you or HRO is willing to sell these two items at a discounted price for this project. The Build-A-Thon will be held on the first Saturday of the month, beginning January 7. If you have an antenna analyzer, bring it along. I will also bring mine so we can tune the antennas.

2M Tape Measure Antenna Parts List

(All ½" Schedule 40 PVC parts)

1 Slip "T"

2 Slip Crosses

30" ½" PVC Pipe

1" Tape Measure (At least 10') "Many times free at Harbor Freight"

2 (1-1/2") hose clamps

4 #8 X ½" sheet metal screws

5" #14 or #16 AWG wire

Aprox. 8' RG-58 coax

1 BNC connector for RG-58 coax

A few tie wraps to hold the coax to the tube

This article explains the Tape Measure antenna for direction finding:

http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm

Submitted by

Dean KC9REN

Workshops Coordinator

[REGISTER HERE](#)

4 MHz ATTENUATOR

for Fox Hunting and Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF)

When you're closing in on the fox you may find the signals to be strong enough that you can no longer find a peak or null with your antenna. The solution is to

use an offset attenuator between your HT and the antenna. The circuit consists of a small RF generator, in this case 4MHz, which will mix with the incoming fox signal (such as 146.52MHz) and produce new signals at plus and minus the fox signal (142.52Mhz and 150.52Mhz).

I am planning on doing this project in February of 2023 to go along with the Tape Measure Antenna project we are building in January. You can order the kit from 3rd Planet Solar/KC9ON <https://kc9on.com/product/fox-hunt-offset-attenuator/> I have included a few pictures of the assembled kit and some enclosure ideas. You can get the enclosures at your favorite home improvement store and you would also need to order 2 BNC chassis mount connectors or pick them up at your favorite Ham Radio Store (HRO). I will talk more about this at our next MRAC club meeting.

I'm looking forward to doing these projects with all of you.

Submitted by
Dean KC9REN
Workshops Coordinator

[REGISTER HERE](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

August

Gary Beier, KD9VGL

September

Noah Basting, KD9VGM

October

Sandra Ford, KD9VGS

Alex Baruth, KD9SMF

Tom Czaja, KG9EE

Nick Horneye, KD9PQL

Lloyd Bigger, KB9IOZ

November

Jim Jacobsen, W9JAJ

(reprinted from the Wisconsin Section Newsletter)

**WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER**

Issue Date: October 2022
WI-SEC Manager Jason Spetz, KC9FXE

Download the full newsletter [HERE](#).

News From Around the Section**ARRL Certificate of Merit**

On October 1, **Dick Strassburger, N9EEE**, was presented with the ARRL Certificate of Merit for his dedication to the ham radio community. Dick created, organized and is a presenter for the Ham Radio Bootcamp, sponsored by the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club. This is the second year of the Bootcamp which is designed to help new amateurs get on the air with confidence. Dick also staffs the MRAC booth at various swapfests and other ham radio events. Congratulations, Dick! Thank you to **Tom Czaja, KG9EE**, Asst. Section Manager, for presenting this award to Dick.

(If you are aware of section members who should be considered for recognition, please contact your Section Manager.)



Club Spotlight

Spotlight on the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club (MRAC)

By

Tom Czaja, Assistant Wisconsin Section Manager



MRAC Board of Directors 2022-2023

Dale, AB9DW (treasurer), Ted, N9KQQ (Director), Tom, W9TJP (Director), Dean, KC9REN (Director), Tony, KD9NXU (Secretary), Roger, AC9BT (Vice President), Dick, N9EEE (President)

The Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club is one of the oldest, continuously operating amateur radio clubs in the world, having been incorporated in 1917 and affiliated with the ARRL since 1919. The MRAC was the seventh club organization to become affiliated with the ARRL. The Club has approximately 85 members. The club meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 A.M. at the Ham Radio Outlet Classroom, 5710 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee, WI. The MRAC operates a 2M repeater system on 145.390 MHz (-600kHz offset, 127.3Hz CTCSS) for both FM and C4FM with WIRES-X capability (Yaesu System Fusion). Weekly nets are held on Tuesdays (Rookie Net) and Fridays (2-meter Net). The MRAC also hosts the nation's first

"Fusion" Net heard throughout the Milwaukee area via the repeater or around the globe via WIRES-X on Saturday evenings.

The MRAC has been a very active club since its inception. Educating amateur radio operators has always been a priority for the club. The MRAC held its first code and radio building class in 1922. Elementary electricity and radio were taught. The MRAC continues to offer classes to amateurs. 2022 was the second year for the Ham Radio Bootcamp. The goal of the bootcamp is to help new hams to get on the air with confidence.

The Club is initiating a new Workshop program focusing on build-a-thons, workshop tools, and building technique. The program will begin later this year and the workshops at the Ham Radio Outlet classroom.

The MRAC also sponsors the Hams Helping Hams Program. 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. The MRAC offers this service to the 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.

A Rookie Net is held Tuesdays on the MRAC repeater at 8:00 P.M. The net is created specifically for recently licensed amateur radio operators and those re-entering the hobby. OMs are invited to share their expertise.

In addition to the educational programs the MRAC also sponsors a Field Day site, an ARISS Project, an annual VHF/UHF simplex contest and in 2022 held a special events station commemorating the 105th anniversary of the MRAC and a JOTA site. The MRAC also holds a "Not Makin' Dayton Tailgate Swapfest" in the Ham Radio Outlet parking lot. There is no cost for the swapfest and the swapfest is held the same weekend as Dayton for hams who are not going to Dayton.

The MRAC was one of the original 39 VEC's to be accredited by the FCC in 1984. Today, there are 14 VEC's remaining including the MRAC VEC, Inc. The MRAC VEC is a separate entity from the club.

The MRAC has an information table at many swapfests. If you would like more information about the club including membership information, please stop at their table or visit their website at www.w9rh.org.

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.

Preferential Net Control assignments
Preferential table location at Swapfest
Preferential parking location at Not Makin Dayton
Preferential reservations for any event with limited seating

Workshops
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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Annual memberships expire on December 31, 2022. Please renew now so you don't miss out on all the fun and activity at your Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. Life members are exempt from membership dues.

You may pay your renewal fee of \$20 at (1) an upcoming membership meeting in November or December, (2) make a payment online via PayPal, or (3) write a check payable to Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club and send it to MRAC, P.O. Box 26938, Milwaukee, WI 53226

Please note that the Board of Directors has approved a change in Family Membership description, qualification, and fees. Family members must hold an FCC license and reside under the same roof. The primary family membership fee is \$20; each additional family member is \$10. Please view the Bylaws on our website for more information.

New members whose dues are paid in full through 2023:

Alex Baruth, KD9SMF
Lloyd Bigger, KB9IOZ
Tom Czaja, KG9EE
Sandra Ford, KD9VGS
Jim Gehrke, KD9LNA
Nick Horneye, KD9PGL
Jim Jacobson, W9JAJ
Scott Kempen, KD9PMF
Noah Basting, KD9VGM

Be Cool. Be Seen in a MRAC T-shirt!



Long-sleeve and short-sleeve t-shirts are available in all sizes.

Personalize it with your call sign (one call sign, as shown).

Price is inclusive of shipping.

This is a one-time bulk order, so order yours now.

Order deadline is Saturday, November 19.

Delivery is anticipated for the December 17 meeting, or may be picked up at HRO after that date

Two ways to order:

Online ordering is a two-step process:

1. Place your order [HERE](#)
2. Make your payment via PayPal [HERE](#).

Deadline is Saturday, November 19

In-person ordering at the November 19 club meeting

1. Place your order on the order form at the check-in table
2. Pay Dale (AB9DW) or Dick (N9EEE) with check or cash. PayPal is accepted but must be paid on Saturday, November 19 or the order is not complete.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION MONTH

Thank you to all our Volunteers!

Volunteer is not the right word, though it categorizes how one offers their time. "Honey, I have to volunteer for the club." It's more like, "Honey, I am going to have some fun with my radio friends." We do it because it's our nature to use

our skills and talent in a meaningful and purposeful way when we participate in events and activities for what we call ourselves, a Club - a group of ham radio operators brought together for a common reason, to do what we can't or don't wish to do alone. And often, the "volunteer" gets involved in multiple areas because its simply addicting to do so.

Some of the areas our members have been working on:

Website, Hamateur Chatter, Swapfest, Picnic, FM Simplex Contest, Net Control Operators, Repeater/Technical support, Field Day, JOTA, Maker Faire, Ham Radio Boot Camp, Marketing (swapfests, social media), Meetings (AV, set-up, etc), Membership, Historian, License/Call sign Trustee, Leadership

We recognize the following members for bringing vibrancy to the Club:

Joe (N9UX), Dave (KA9WXN), Dave (WB9BWP), Bob (KC9YRR), Jerry (K9FI), Carter (W9ERR), Kevin (KD9PFL), Jeff (AD9AB), Dave (WB9SXG), Fred (W9KEY), and Jim (KS9Q), Curt (N9CBS).

The Club leadership is more than Officers and Board of Directors providing vision and strategy, and assuring the Club functions properly. Each of them also spearhead Committees and participate in other activities. Not only does this spread the work, but also increases the level of new ideas. A special thanks to this group for their time and talent: Roger (AC9BT), Tony (KD9NXU), Dale (AB9DW), Dean (KC9REN), Ted (N9KQQ), Tom (W9TJP).

If you're on the sidelines thinking you're leaving room for others to grow or that we don't need you...wrong! You can't help but notice that MRAC is growing and vibrant because of the energy from our volunteers generating the activities and support within the Club. All of this is necessary to the sustenance of the Club. If you haven't volunteered recently, or ever, I hope you'll consider one of the many areas we could put your talents to work. Just a little or a lot makes a difference. Just keep an open mind when you hear about a need and consider joining in. (A list of volunteer opportunities appears later in this newsletter). Ask any of the Club members listed above about why they do it. I think you'll be inspired.

Bob ('YRR) said it poignantly last year in his testimonial, "volunteer to be a volunteer."

It's an honor to work with each of you.

Submitted by Dick Strassburger, N9EEE
President, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to participate in club activities:

Sign-up as an HF or VHF operator at our Special Event Station
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"
Contribute to our newsletter, Hamateur Chatter
Score logs submitted for the FM Simplex Contest
Be an Elmer - be a Ham Helping Hams
Help 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."

MEMBER RESOURCES

MRAC WIRES-X Usage Guidelines

The W9RH repeater is a Yaesu System Fusion DR-2X with Automatic Mode Select (AMS). AMS is enabled on our repeater which allows for FM and C4FM transmissions based on the mode of the received signal. We consider this a shared use repeater by both modes.

When using the digital voice mode, please consult the Repeater Guidelines regarding respect and courtesy by all Club members and our guests.

Since C4FM receivers in the digital-only mode will not sense an FM mode transmission, listening for FM activity is required before making your first digital transmission to avoid disruption of an existing QSO.

We have established the following guidelines for digital communications on the W9RH repeater to assure a pleasurable experience by all.

Step 1. USING C4FM ON THE REPEATER

Be respectful towards existing QSOs. Before making any digital transmission...

- monitor the repeater in AMS or FM mode for a full minute to determine if a QSO is in progress
- after 60 seconds of monitoring, key your mic and ask "is this repeater in use?" along with your call sign, in FM mode
- assuming the repeater is not in use, proceed with your C4FM transmission
- when in a QSO, please take long pauses (2-3 seconds) between transmissions, and take a break every 30 minutes to allow others, FM or C4FM, to use the repeater

Step 2. ENGAGING WIRES-X...

Before engaging WIRES-X...

- do all of Step 1
- assuming the repeater is not in use, proceed to engaging WIRES-X

Step 3. ENGAGING ROOMS

W9RH room #43588 is enabled as a default.

Engaging an outside room is a limited-use privilege with restrictions. We have implemented a 30-minute time-out timer on any outside room not in active use. After that time, the W9RH Room will be re-engaged.

- if you find an outside room is already connected prior to your desired use, another operator is likely engaging that room. Feel free to join that QSO. If after 30 minutes there has been no local activity, it will revert to the W9RH Room

We recommend limiting active usage (participating in a QSO) to no more than 60 minutes. Passive usage (listening) is limited to no more than 30 minutes.*

- do not recycle an outside room to reset the timer. Doing so monopolizes the repeater which is discourteous to other Club members and guests
- non-club Nets are subject to the 30-minute time-out timer unless there is active local participation, with exceptions noted below *

Step 4. DISENGAGING ROOMS

Return the node to W9RH room #43588 when you have discontinued active use of an outside Room.

- all WIRES-X users are **EXPECTED** to end their WIRES-X session by selecting # on their keypad to disengage. Please assure you have completed this before moving on

* Note: the QSO time limit is set to provide fair access to all club members, including FM users, especially if no local traffic occurs while in other WIRES-X Rooms. See exceptions below.

Exceptions to the above guidelines:

- the SE Fusion Net meets on Saturdays at 7:00 pm local time and takes precedence of FM and other C4FM activities
- the MNWIS Net meets via WIRES-X on Mondays at 7:30 pm local time and takes precedence
- the MNWIS Saturday Net meets via WIRES-X on Saturdays at 8:00 pm local time and takes precedence
- the Friday Night 2 Meter Net meets on Fridays at 9:00 pm and takes precedence
- the Rookie Net meets on Tuesdays at 8:00 pm and takes precedence
- any other Club or Member activity deemed necessary by the MRAC Control Ops or Board of Directors may take precedence without advance notice. Such interruption to normal operation may be noted on our website or Facebook Group Page.

W9RH.org IS YOUR INFORMATION RESOURCE**Newly added or updated:**

- Workshops
 - Resources (listings)
 - WIRES-X Usage Guidelines
 - Field Day summary
 - JOTA summary
 - Maker Faire summary
 - Member Directory
 - Meeting dates and programs
 - 4th Quarter Newsletter (Hamateur Chatter)
-



Ask Questions - Get Answers

Tuesdays

8 pm - 145.390 MHz

W9RH repeater



FACEBOOK GROUP

Welcome to our Facebook Group

The place to share your projects, adventures, and that one you snagged, or the

one that got away.
Feel free to:

- post original content
- upload or view ham radio-related files
- create polls
- invite others to an operating event (going to a park? invite others to join you)

Join the conversation at [Facebook.com/groups/MilwaukeeHamRadio](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MilwaukeeHamRadio)

NEW PRODUCT INSIDER

Yaesu FT-710 AESS



After 6 years of ICOM having the only entry-level SDR radio, Yaesu finally released their new FT-710 AESS.

The FT-710 is similar to the IC-7300 in coverage, power output, built-in tuner and sound card interface. However, Yaesu has come out with surprisingly improved receiver performance and an interesting audio enhancement for a similarly priced radio.

One of the most popular sites for testing and comparing radio receiver performance is Sherwood Engineering - <http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>. The new Yaesu FT-710 AESS is currently number 4 on the list. Not bad for an entry level radio. The ICOM IC-7300 lands at #24. (Personal comment: Don't get caught up solely in lab environment testing. Look at how the radio operates and ask yourself if you'd be happy sitting in front of the radio for hours on end. I have a personal preference for a certain brand over another based solely on the layout of the knobs because of how I like to rest my wrist on the desk in front of the radio.)

Honestly, my favorite improvement over the IC-7300 is the inclusion of a DVI-D port. Having the ability to hook it up to an external monitor is great; especially for us with crappy vision. I know many people wonder why Yaesu/ICOM/Kenwood use DVI-D instead of HDMI. It's because they would

have to pay a license fee to use HDMI.

The AESS part of the Yaesu radio is really interesting. Yaesu is including the external speaker that can physically attach to either side of the radio. It then has a built-in balance control so you can adjust sound between the higher pitched internal speaker and the more low end external speaker. That way you can find the sweet spot for your ears. There is also a setting to shift the center frequency a bit.

The radio has a built-in USB sound card/control interface so you don't need an external box like a Signalink or RigRunner. It's just a simple USB-A to USB-B cable. If you've ever bought a USB printer you have one of these cables. If you want to run a digital mode, like FT8, you just need to plug the USB cable from the radio to your computer and select the digital preset in the radio.

The Yaesu FT-710 AESS is currently available and, at the time this newsletter was published, sells for \$1299.95 at ham radio dealers.

submitted by
Tom Pachner, W9TJP

MRAC VEC TESTING

Here is a recap from the MRAC VEC test session on October 29, 2022.

It was a relatively small exam session with 5 candidates attending; however everyone passed their exams including one candidate that passed both Technician and General exams. Everyone left with either a new license or successfully upgraded their current license.

Candidates earned the following licenses:

Technician: 2

General: 2

Extra: 1

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](https://www.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

- November 26, 2022
- December 31, 2022
- January 28, 2023
- February 25, 2023
- March 25, 2023
- April 29, 2023
- May 27, 2023

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
- The FCC requires a valid email address directly accessible by you.
- 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.

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: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE
Vice President: Roger Heindl, AC9BT
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Dean Berglund, KC9REN
Ted Carlson, N9KQQ
Tom Pachner, W9TJP

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Dave De Febo, WB9BWP

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:

November 19: Bylaws, Fox Hunting 101, and Demo

December 17: WIRES-X (Nodes, Rooms) and Repeater Access

January: WSPR, RBN, and Spotting Pages

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/groups/milwaukeehamradio



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