



**Milwaukee  
Radio  
Amateurs'  
Club**



*"The ARRL's oldest  
affiliated club"*



# HAMATEUR CHATTER

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

2nd Quarter 2023

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## MEMBER MEETING NOTICE

Saturday, June 17, 2023  
10:00 am - 11:30 am  
(doors open at 9:00 am)

Program: Field Day, MRAC Focus on the Future

Ham Radio Outlet Training Room  
Zoom is available. Click [HERE](#) to access.

**Pre-Meeting (8:00 am):** Breakfast Social at Park Place Cafe  
10843 W. Good Hope Road (adjacent to Holiday Inn Express)

**Post-Meeting:** Fox Hunt at Noyes Park

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



Greetings!

"And the hits just keep on comin'." Our Workshop program initiated in January has been a huge success with participants expanding their bench skills and building useful items for their ham shack or on air operating. The program is on summer hiatus and will return in September.

Meanwhile, a Fox Hunt group has been organized with multiple fox hunts planned through the summer months. Two of the items from the Workshop - tape measure antenna and 4MHz Offset Attenuator - proved their value in the first fox hunt at Noyes Park. The group started with a parking lot test hunt, then into the woods they went searching for their prey. While we're not divulging

their location should they resurface in future hunts, let's just say one of them was fairly devious being hidden in a McDonalds paper coffee cup. The Fox Hunt group invites all club members to participate by joining one of them to form a team, or bring your own equipment as a hunter.

And with June, we turn our attention to Field Day. We've seen some changes in club activities these past couple of years, and so too it will be with our Field Day site and activation. The Board of Directors is the Field Day Planning Team and is focusing on the essence of Field Day...a public venue, emergency power, and day-of-event setup. We invite all club members to participate in the manner you would like...help with setup, operate on the air, socialize with fellow hams, or observe and learn. Read all the details elsewhere in this newsletter and join in the conversation at our next member meeting.

I'd like to thank Joe, N9UX, who has many years of volunteerism with the MRAC and needs to take a break from the Membership Committee where he recently served as a "wingham." Joe was/still is someone I go to as a sounding board. Thanks a million, Joe.

And with that vacancy, I am looking for someone to help me welcome new club members as a "wingham." If you are engaging, passionate about the club, and wish to help new members feel welcome in MRAC and achieve their needs, please contact me directly.

Meanwhile, let's go out and play radio!

--73--

Dick Strassburger

N9EEE

President, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

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## TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

### Account Balances

as of May 16, 2023

Petty Cash: \$20

### Paypal

Beginning Balance: \$000.00

Deposits: \$158.08 (fee adjusted)

Ending Balance: **\$158.08**

### Checking Account

Beginning Balance: \$8,561.72

Total Deposits: \$ 740.45 (Transfer from Prev month Paypal,  
Interest from CDs and Checking)  
Total Expenses: \$1,428.80 (Build-a-thon and Annual Dinner)  
Ending Balance: **\$7,916.28**

CD1: \$5,178.94  
CD2: \$7,635.60

Total Finances: **\$20,908.90**

Note: the 2023 annual budget will be presented at the June member meeting for approval.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dale Webler, AB9DW, MRAC Treasurer

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS SUMMARY

A new Board of Directors was elected by the membership on April 15, 2023. Officer selections were made on April 17, 2023.

**President:** Dick Strassburger, N9EEE (term expiring 2025)  
**Vice President:** Roger Heindl, AC9BT (term expiring 2024)  
**Secretary:** Rich Hawthorne, W9ABE (term expiring 2025)  
**Treasurer:** Dale Webler, AB9DW (term expiring 2024)  
**Director:** Dean Berglund, KC9REN (term expiring 2024)  
**Director:** Ted Carlson, N9KQQ (term expiring 2025)  
**Director:** Carter Davis, W9ERR (term expiring 2025)

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## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

**Milwaukee Radio  
Amateurs' Club**

# **ACTIVITIES**

## **Fox Hunts**

- June 17 (after club meeting)
- July 15 (after club meeting)
- August 12 (summer picnic)
- September 16 (after club mtg)

## **Workshops**

- September 9
- October 7
- November 4
- December 2

# **EVENTS**

**Field Day - June 24-25**

**Summer Picnic - Aug 12**

**JOTA - Oct 21**

**Ham Radio Boot Camp - Fall**



Congratulations to our first place finishers, and everyone who operated in this annual event.

6m: K9FI, K9WOC

2m: K9FI, K9WOC

1.25m: AA9RK, K9FI, K9WOC

70cm: AA9RK

Base: AA9RK

HT: N9EEE

Mobile: K9FI/K9WOC

Digital Voice: K9FI, K9WOC

Club: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

It's not too early to start making plans for next year...Sunday, February 25, 2024.

**MSOE ARC / NØIMJ Balloon Launch  
MRAC POTA at K-1461 LSSP**

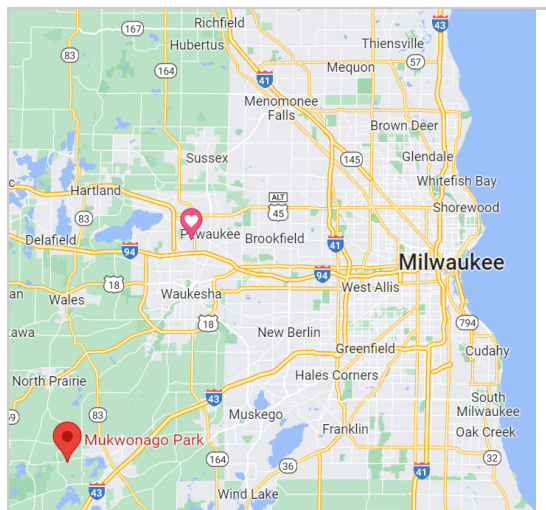




## FIELD DAY 2023



**Saturday, June 24 thru  
Sunday, June 25, 2023**



### **New Location!**

#### **Mukwonago Park in Mukwonago**

[S100 W31900, County Hwy LO, Mukwonago, WI 53149](#)

[Picnic area #1](#)

## **MRAC Activation Details**

Operating 3A (3 transmitters)  
Emergency power - no AC mains  
Plus GOTA (Get On The Air)  
Plus VHF

Modes: CW, Digital, SSB  
Band Plan:  
Xmtr #1: 40m  
Xmtr #2: 20m  
Xmtr #3: 80m except when 15m or 10m are open

#### Saturday, June 24

Setup: Saturday at 10:00 am  
On-air: 1:00 pm - 10:00 pm

#### Sunday, June 25

On-air: 7:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Tear-down: 1:00 pm

Operators needed: club members are encouraged to get behind the mic.  
Contesters...go for it. Ragchewers...may need to stay to the script. Rookies...no worries. We'll teach you the exchange, watch another operator, and then give you the mic. Everyone chooses the mode they're most comfortable with or wish to learn. We suggest you bring your own radio as you'll be more familiar with



the menus. Otherwise, there should be a radio available to use. Also, if you're experimenting with a new antenna, bring it along and test it out while you're on the air. We'll have an onsite coordinator to assure everyone has an opportunity to get on the air.

Educational Activities: Learn Morse code or learn about Amateur Radio Direction Finding in a fox hunt.

MRAC's ARRL Field Day is part field operations, part education, and part socializing for club members and guests. Come help us set up. Get on the air and make contacts. Socialize with other club members. Watch and learn. Feel free to bring family and friends to show off your fabulous hobby. However you want to do Field Day, come on out and do it.

If you have any questions about our activation of MRAC's ARRL Field Day, hop on one of our Nets and we'll be glad to answer your questions. Please note, a Waukesha County Parks pass is required and is most easily obtained [online](#).

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## FIELD DAY PLANNING

The Field Day Planning Committee for 2023 is your Board of Directors. As we discussed our objectives for Field Day, it made sense for the Board to own those responsibilities of planning and implementation and share the workload amongst itself.

Objectives: foster MRAC club camaraderie, engage the spirit of Field Day  
Onsite strategy: operate, educate, socialize

On-site coordinator to 1) assure no overlap on the bands, 2) allow operators an opportunity behind the mic or on the logging laptops, 3) assure we remain 3A with no extraneous operations.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **Ask Questions - Get Answers**

Tuesdays

8 pm - 145.390 MHz

W9RH repeater

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### **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:

Mike, KD9WMJ, is a newly licensed Technician class ham and joined the club to leverage the collective knowledge and help him get on the air. His "wingham," Dick N9EEE, talked him through programming his new QRZ newbie HT for local area repeaters, discussed station variables, and have scheduled an on-air ice-breaker. Mike registered for the next Ham Radio Boot Camp so he can get on HF, and talk around the world.

If you're in need of some additional knowledge about a project or new area of ham radio you are pursuing, contact [Hams Helping Hams](#) for some one-on-one assistance.

### === 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

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## MEMBER NEWS

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#### March

Eli Kelidor

Jake O'Shaughnessy, KD9RSP

#### April

Adam Conlin, KD9WWS

Rick Cannon, KC9UJO

William Hendrickson, W9MKE

Kevin Hough, KD9WRK

#### May

Edward Ammendola, K9EVA

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## 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  
Hands-on Workshops  
Fox Hunts  
Hams Helping Hams (Elmers)  
Ham Radio Boot Camp  
Auction  
Swapfest  
Summer Picnic  
Wide coverage Repeater  
System Fusion WIRES-X node  
Weekly Nets  
Net control training  
Monthly meetings  
Special Projects  
ARISS  
Facebook Group  
Quarterly e-newsletter

## HELP WANTED

There are many ways to participate in club activities.

FM Simplex Contest: help score logs or join the committee and be the bonus 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  
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?

[CLICK TO HELP](#)

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

"Volunteer to volunteer."

## MEMBER RESOURCES

### W9RH.org IS YOUR INFORMATION RESOURCE

#### Newly added or updated:

- Meeting Date and Program
- Workshops: March and April
- Ham Radio Boot Camp
- Member Directory
- Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation
- Newsletter (Hamateur Chatter)

**W9RH.ORG**



## FACEBOOK GROUP

Welcome to our Facebook Group

Be the first to know

See pix of events

Ask questions

Post your achievements and successes

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

## MRAC VEC TESTING

Here is a recap from the MRAC VEC test session on May 27:

We had another busy turnout for this session with 17 candidates attending. We appreciate everyone's patience while we processed everyone's exams during this busy exam session.

Technician: 3

General: 7

Extra: 6

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! And a hearty "welcome" to those candidates who joined the hobby by earning their amateur radio licenses.

### **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**

Testing is from 9:30 am - 11:30 am

- June - NO EXAMS
- July 29, 2023
- September 23, 2023 - Testing starts @ 8:30am
- October 28, 2023
- November 25, 2023
- December 30, 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](http://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.

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## **OFFICERS and DIRECTORS**

### Officers

President: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

Vice President: Roger Heindl, AC9BT

Secretary: Rich Hawthorne, W9ABE

Treasurer: Dale Webler, AB9DW

### Directors

Dean Berglund, KC9REN

Ted Carlson, N9KQQ

Carter Davis, W9ERR

### W9RH Trustee

Dave De Febo, WB9BWP

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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:

June 17: Field Day, Focus on the Future

July 15: tbd

August: NO meeting. See you at the Summer Picnic

### 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](mailto:w9rh@arrl.net)

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

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



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#### **Our mailing address is:**

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