



**Milwaukee
Radio
Amateurs'
Club**



*"The ARRL's oldest
affiliated club"*



HAMATEUR CHATTER

Editor: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE
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3rd Quarter 2023

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M.A.A.R.S. SUMMMER PICNIC

MRAC members are invited to participate

Saturday, August 12, 2023

12:00 pm until...

Greenfield Park (West Allis) - Picnic area #2

Burgers, brats, and buns and drinking water are provided

Feel free to bring a dish to pass

Activities

HT Toss

Fox Hunt (three foxes will be hidden)

Thank you to our friends at M.A.A.R.S for inviting us to their annual summer picnic.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



Greetings!

How quiet is our repeater?

So quiet you could blow dust off the finals.

So quiet the heat sink sank.

So quiet the repeater's ID was stolen.

So quiet the input and output went kaput.

Ok, you get the idea. Our repeater, like many, is too quiet. About the only usage comes from the three club nets (Rookie, Friday Night, and Fusion). Is this a bad thing? Only if you're trying to reach someone, anyone, outside of the Nets. Is this a good thing? Only if you think quiet is preferable to vibrancy.

To gain an interesting insight to the problem, I summoned the great wizard of the internet, ChatGPT for their/its opinion in hopes I could find the answer to returning the repeater's busyness to its heyday. Meh, they/it didn't have an answer either, though it was an interesting dialogue. (see below)

So you own an expensive VHF radio, right? Dial in the repeater, pick up your mic and let out a call. It may take a little while, but the more we do that, even if randomly, the more entertaining the repeater will be.

--73--

Dick Strassburger

N9EEE

President, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

Two Repeaters Walk Into A Bar

VHF Amateur Radio Repeater 1 (VARR1): Hey, VARR2, have you noticed that there's been no activity on our frequencies lately? It's been unusually quiet out here.

VHF Amateur Radio Repeater 2 (VARR2): Yes, VARR1, I've been monitoring the channels, and it's been eerily silent. It's not like our usual vibrant amateur radio community.

VARR1: I wonder what could be causing this. Do you think there might be a technical issue with our repeater systems?

VARR2: It's possible, but I've checked our logs, and everything seems to be functioning correctly. We're relaying signals without any problem. So, I don't think it's a repeater issue.

VARR1: You're right. Maybe people are just busy with their daily lives, or there might be some event going on that's keeping them away from the airwaves.

VARR2: That could be a reason, but usually, we still hear some casual conversations even during busy times. It's odd to have such prolonged silence.

VARR1: Agreed. You know, sometimes propagation conditions can affect the range of communication. Perhaps, the signals are not reaching us properly due to atmospheric conditions.

VARR2: Hmm, that's worth considering. We could experience some ducting or other propagation anomalies that are limiting the signals.

VARR1: But even if that's the case, we should still pick up local transmissions. Maybe we should try reaching out to some of the regular operators we know and ask if they've experienced any difficulties.

VARR2: Good idea. They might have some insights into what's happening. And who knows, maybe they've switched to a different set of frequencies or modes.

VARR1: Right, staying connected with the community is essential. We should also remind them about our presence, just in case someone is new to the area or has forgotten about us.

VARR2: Absolutely. We want to encourage more activity on our repeaters and keep the ham spirit alive. If there are any newcomers, we can help them get comfortable with the local radio scene.

VARR1: Agreed. Let's do that, and in the meantime, we'll continue to monitor the airwaves. Hopefully, we'll hear some friendly voices soon.

VARR2: Indeed. Amateur radio is all about building connections, and together, we can create an engaging and enjoyable environment for everyone. Fingers crossed for some lively conversations ahead!

(dialogue provided by ChatGPT. 8/4/2023)

W9RH REPEATER
145.390 MHz
-600 Hz offset
127.3 CTCSS (subaudible tone)

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Account Balances

Ending Balances as of 7/16/2023:

Petty Cash: \$ 20.00
Paypal: \$ 18.81 (New Member Fee)
Checking: \$12,722.85 (incl. one of the two CD's cashed in)
CD: \$ 7,635.90

Total Assets: \$20,397.26

In addition, on 7/26/23, we completed the extension of the remaining CD to \$15,000 at 5% APY to mature on 7/23/2024. Current checking balance as of 8/3 is \$5,378.52 which will be adjusted for checking interest on 8/16 and of course any transactions that may hit the account from PayPal and any expense reimbursements.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dale Webler, AB9DW, MRAC Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS SUMMARY

Board of Directors Meeting Summary - July 2023

This meeting is to review and implement Strategic Priorities and Tactics.

Priorities:

1. Growth: assure the future of MRAC through membership growth (see Growth)
2. Vibrancy: support activities that encourage participation and socialization among members (see Activities)
3. Education: support learning opportunities that provide awareness, understanding, or new skills in the hobby (see Education)
4. Volunteerism: increase member involvement in the club especially on committees or in activities (see Volunteerism)

Tactics:

1. Growth

- Youth engagement (especially technically oriented)
- Attract general membership by being a valued resource (Ham Radio Boot Camp; quality programs at meetings; additional learning opportunities)
- PR to local media, local officials, ARRL (includes social media engagement)

2. Activities

- Focus Feedback ideas
- Ham of the Year
- Add Special Event Station (ex. State Fair, Zoo, Discovery World, Irish Fest)
- Swapfest

3. Education

- Evolve Ham Radio Boot Camp (subject matter spin-offs such as "FT-8 night")
- Technician and General Class Q & A Review
- Morse Code class

4. Volunteerism "Engagement"

- Breed a culture of volunteerism (testimonials in Hamateur Chatter, personal outreach)
- Ask for sign-ups at Member Meetings
- Improve Hams Helping Hams(tm)
- Seek a new term replacing "Volunteer". Engagement?

Committee Reports:

Marketing and Communications: Groups.io introduced & explained at the July membership meeting. Members gave it strong support with testimonials from usage in other clubs. Hams Helping Hams program will now be served through requests in Groups.io. Carter will serve as backup Administrator.

PR: Dick stressed the need for a PR specialist to carry the weight of interfacing with media, local officials, and ARRL. This should be considered a priority for the club. It requires an individual with skills to reach out to regular and social media outlets to create awareness of what Ham radio is all about. (IE) MSOE balloon launch, Field Day, and Special Events.

Membership: Thank you to HRO for referrals. Seeking a passionate club member to help welcome new members to the club.

Repeater/Technical: bridging YSF to WIRES-X, Echolink/Allstar
Roger reported the current software on repeater locked down by Yaesu for WIRES-X use only. YSF Reflector would have to be an RF connection similar to how we employ the WIRES-X connection. Is Echolink/Allstar a better alternative? What are the requirements? Roger to give this a priority and report back next month.

Activities planned or considered:

- Maker Faire (Nov 4) - Ted: will commit if we have a good idea. Build-a-thon? What's the project?
- JOTA (Oct 21-22) - Dean
- Swapfest (April? Dick and Carter to co-lead. Looking to move the date into April due to previous bad weather experiences and Tower Electronics availability.
- Special Event Station - Jan (anniversary) and an additional date. Suggestions mentioned were Irish Fest and State Fair. The events would allow the club more exposure and possible PR/media coverage. Roger reported that to set up at Irish Fest there needs to be a connection to the event highlighting Irish heritage/history. Dick to review club roster.
- Fox Hunt - September and beyond. Is there interest in continuing in colder weather? Mobile or foot hunts? Committee of fox hunters will discuss and propose. Potential for intraclub fox hunts. Inviting Maker Space group.
- Annual meeting - April 19 or 20, 2024. Elks Lodge. Need to check avail of date.

New Business:

- Morse Code Class. Based on requests at member meetings and Ham Radio Boot Camp, there is a need for a Morse Code class. Dick will leverage his relationship with the CW Academy to teach a Beginner class this Fall.
- Ham of the Year Award. Plaque to be presented at Annual meeting. Rich agreed to be chairperson to work on proposal for BOD review at Sept meeting (criteria, process for nominations, and if the Board or a committee determines the recipient).

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

**Milwaukee Radio
Amateurs' Club**

ACTIVITIES

Picnic - Aug 12
Workshop - Sept 9
Fox Hunt - Sept 16
Superfest- Sept 23
Morse code - Sept 21

MEETINGS

September 16

EVENTS

Ham Radio Boot
Camp - Sept 30
JOTA - Oct 21

FIELD DAY 2023



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

Mukwonago Park - Waukesha County

Modes

CW - 61

SSB - 175

Digital - 9

Operators

Dick N9EEE

Howard WA9TOP

Carter W9ERR

Roger AC9BT

Jeff AD9AB

Jeff KD9VGH

Operators

Ted N9KQQ

Dean KC9REN

Matt KC9UDX

Lorelai KD9WFA*

Mike KD9WMJ

Joe N9UX

Guests

Jerry K9FI

Cheri K9WOC

Gary KD9VGL

Nick KD9VWC





ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEARN MORSE CODE IN 8 WEEKS

Beginner Class

Learn the alphabet, numbers and punctuation

Learn CW protocol

Hear and Send with Confidence

Certificate of Completion

Kick-off Sept 21

Classes Sept 26 - Nov 16

Class size is limited

Advance registration is required

More information [HERE](#).



The MRAC Groups.io is the new watercooler for exchanging stories; sharing tips, tricks, and hacks; inviting others to an outing; asking others for help; or sharing info among POTA, Fox Hunt teams, workshop builds, or other special interest enthusiasts.

The MRAC Groups.io is created as a members-only exchange. You'll get alerts each time a post is made to the group, or receive an inbox-friendly daily digest.

Subscribe [HERE](#) and make your first post so we can welcome you (and make the spam filter happy). Only MRAC club members may apply.

WORKSHOP BUILD-A-THON

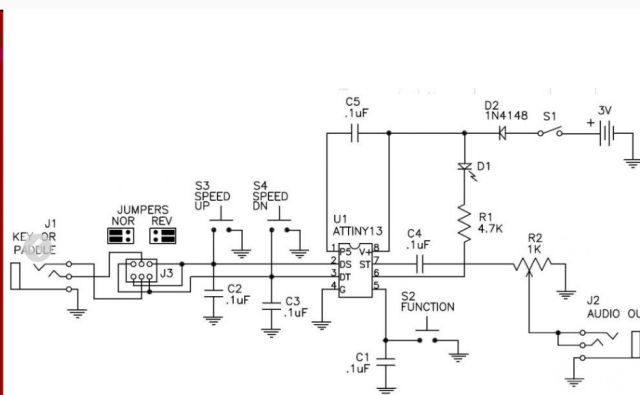
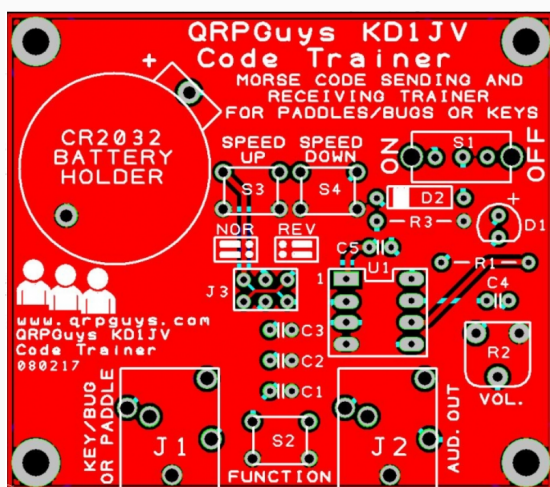
QRP Guys Morse Code Trainer

Saturday, September 9:00 am - 11:00 am
(ORC swapfesters may join us at 10:30 am)

HRO Training room
5730 W Good Hope Road

This workshop requires a kit purchase from QRP Guys. Please allow enough time for delivery prior to the workshop.

Advance registration is required. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



MEMBER MEETING NOTICE


Saturday, September 16, 2023
10:00 am - 11:30 am
(doors open at 9:00 am)

Program: All About FT8 & FT4
by Joe Schwarz, N9UX

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



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

HANDS-ON: MAKE PATCH CORDS

ARRL SERVICES

EXPERTS Q & A FORUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

TRAINING ROOM - HAM RADIO OUTLET (MILWAUKEE)

RSVP REQUIRED - LIMITED ATTENDANCE

HAMRADIOBOOTCAMP@W9RH.ORG

FACILITATED BY MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB



Ask Questions - Get Answers

Tuesdays

8 pm - 145.390 MHz

W9RH repeater

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 three years ago and have had a variety of requests to fulfill. Thankfully, our small group of Elmers have been there for them.

If you're in need of some additional knowledge about a project or new area of ham

radio you are pursuing, contact put out your request on our new MRAC Groups.io exchange for some one-on-one assistance.

MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

July

Frank DeRaimo, KD9HTQ
Brian Hahn, KD9WLZ
Justin Robbins, AD0WL

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

A VOLUNTEER SPEAKS UP

Ted Carlson, N9KQQ

You never know when an opportunity to volunteer will present itself to you. I became a member of the MRAC because I attended Maker Faire at State Fair Park. The MRAC was there and I spent a few minutes looking at their display and talking to the members present. They told me that they had started a program (ARISS) to help students at a school to talk to an astronaut on the ISS. I was interested in satellites and had made a previously radio contact with an astronaut on the station. My mind told me that I wanted to be part of this endeavor. I joined the club and have been providing my knowledge and experience to the project. This led to me being asked if I wanted to serve on the Board which has been a very rewarding experience.

A person who volunteers has an interest and passion in the organization they are supporting. They want the organization to succeed and they see a need to step up and provide help. This club has been active since 1917 because of the members who step up to provide support. They see the results of their volunteer support and take pride in it.

I am a quiet type of person and being a volunteer helps me to meet and get to know other members. This club has a lot of great Hams who will help you develop your skills as a Ham Radio operator.

You don't have to be on the Board to do things. We have a lot of opportunities to do volunteer work and you can decide how much time you have to devote. Give volunteering a try, you'll like it.

Ted Carlson N9KQQ
Board member

HELP WANTED

There are many ways to participate in club activities.

Help plan our Special Event Station

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

Be an Elmer - be a Ham Helping Hams

Help at our next Swapfest

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

Public Relations

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
- Morse Code Classes
- Workshops: September
- Ham Radio Boot Camp
- Member Directory
- Newsletter (Hamateur Chatter)

W9RH.ORG



FACEBOOK GROUP

Welcome to our Facebook Group

Be the first to know
See pics 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 13 candidates attending. We appreciate everyone's patience while we processed everyone's exams during this busy exam session.

Technician: 7

General: 4

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! 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

- 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.

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
Secretary: Rich Hawthorne, W9ABE
Treasurer: Dale Webler, AB9DW

Directors

Dean Berglund, KC9REN
Ted Carlson, N9KQQ
Carter Davis, W9ERR

W9RH Trustee

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:

August: NO meeting. See you at the Summer Picnic

September: All About FT8 & FT4, Joe Schwarz, N9UX

October: Logging and QSLing, Anthony Lucre, K8ZT

November: Contesting, Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

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



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Our mailing address is:

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