



Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club



*"The ARRL's oldest
affiliated club"*



HAMATEUR CHATTER

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

4th Quarter 2023

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MEETING NOTICE

Members Monthly Meeting
Saturday, November 18, 2023
10:00 am

Presentation: Contesting
Speaker: Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT

Door opens: 9:00 am

Location: Ham Radio Outlet - 5710 W Good Hope Road

Pre-meeting Breakfast Social: 8:00 am at Park Place Cafe
10843 W Good Hope Road

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



Greetings!

Volunteer Recognition Month

This year has been a busy one for MRAC activities and events. We've added a Workshop program, Fox Hunts, and amped up everything else we're doing largely through the efforts of volunteers who plan, support, and participate in them. The fact is this club needs its volunteers to thrive and lucky we are to have so many members who look for ways to give of their talent or time to lend a hand or participate without any thought of "what's in it for me." So as I've done the past two or three years, I'd like to take a moment to say Thank you.

At the risk of omitting someone's name - always a nervous time - I'm listing the volunteers who have participated in a planning committee or a significant activity. For sure, there are helping hands that may go unnamed to whom I also say "thank you."

Dale AB9DW, Roger AC9BT, Jeff AD9AB

Jerry K9FI, Nick K9NCH, Cherri K9WOC

Dave KA9WXN, Dean KC9REN, Matt KC9UDX, Bob KC9YRR, Tony KD9NXU, Kevin KD9PFL, Gary KD9VGL, Lorelei KD9WPA, Jim KS9Q

Dick N9EEE, Steve N9FSE, Ted N9KQQ, Joe N9UX

Rich W9ABE, Curt W9CBS, Carter W9ERR, Fred W9KEY, William W9MKE, Tom W9TJP, Dave WB9BWP, Dave WB9SXG, Leroy WD9HOT

Non-members who've provided significant volunteerism to the club include Frank W9JCC and Paul W9PCS (10m Net), Scott W9MBS (Fusion Net), and Greg W9AWX (HRO)

THANK YOU!

I am delighted to introduce two new volunteers who have offered to lend their talent and time to the club:

- Gary Beier, KD9VGL - Membership Committee, wingham
- Tom Langer, KD9FPC - PR and Publicity

As we recognize our volunteers, this is a good time to announce a new award that will be presented at our annual meeting in April each year: Member of the Year Award! Rich W9ABE volunteered - there's that word again - to head up the program this year. Look for his announcement further down the page.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

- Elizabeth Andrews, American author

Enjoy your Fall.

--73--

Dick Strassburger

N9EEE

President, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The club finances are in solid shape. So far in 2023, our expenses are somewhat more than our revenues with fluctuations from month to month. This is due to our budget being front-loaded with revenues primarily from membership dues and then utilizing those funds throughout the year. In 2023 the club leadership has been very proactive in running activities that benefit our members. Expenses we incurred have been related to increased communication around club events (posters, banners, postage and supplies). In addition, we renewed the club's P.O. Box for another year.

Account Balances

as of 10/16/2023

Petty Cash: \$20.00

Paypal: : \$75.24

Checking: \$5,219.19

CD: \$15,000.00

Total Financial Assets: \$20,314.43

Respectfully Submitted,
Dale Webler, AB9DW, MRAC Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS SUMMARY

Third Quarter 2023

July Meeting:

Review and implement Strategic Priorities and Tactics

- CD's combined and funds from checking added for a new CD valued at \$15,000.
- Dale worked on Sales Tax exemption.
- Board looked at alternative technologies to allow membership access to repeater, when out of range or on vacation.
- Groups.io rolled out and presentation to membership at July meeting.
- An award for a Member of the Year.
- From "Focus Feedback" - presentation about Satellites completed at July membership meeting by Ted.

August Meeting:

September is our busiest month
Opportunity for increasing club awareness to public.

- HRBC, WIPOTA, HRO Superfest
- Groups.io status. Currently 47 members of the 106 enrolled. Suggestion by member for a link on website.
- Still looking for a member to be a PR person for club.
- Board approved Allstar to be the technology for remote access to the repeater. Target date 11/2023. YSF reflector on hold, until Allstar completed.
- Board approved two new banners for display at events and public functions. Banner also have a QR code on, for people to access at their convience.
- Maker Faire. Committee and meeting required for what are booth presentation/demonstration.
- Dick suggested Ham Of The Year award and presented sample criteria. Board approved. Rich will further develop criteria and present at September Board meeting.
- Focus Feedback - presentation and demonstration of FT8 at September meeting by Joe Schwarz, N9UX

- Referencing our Strategic Priorities: Technician and General Class Q & A Review: need VEC cooperation, location for meeting.

September Meeting:

- Need a copy of 501c(3) paperwork for Roger to change status on Gmail accounts.
- Ham Radio Boot Camp only 8 signed up.
- Suggestion to change Technician and General Class Q & A Review. Volunteer mentors are Carter Davis, Jeff Conner, and Dave Ingold.
- Rich presented the criteria and suggestion for a plaque/certificate for Member of the Year. Several minor revisions recommended by Board. He will amend the draft and bring back at October meeting.
- Discussion on Swapfest dates with vendor and Elks Club.
- Considering an additional Special Event Station. Irish Fest, or alternative?
- Fox Hunts: considering events for cold weather.
- Strategic priorities / Education topic: Morse code training starting towards the end of the month.
- Focus Feedback: presentation on QSLing and Logging from Anthony Luscre, K8ZT.
- Discussion on topics for Grants.

Compiled by Rich Hawthorne, KD9NXU, Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS SUMMARY

THIRD QUARTER

July meeting:

- Introduced groups,io for membership
- Marketing: issues arising regarding the club name (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) specific to the placement of the apostrophe. After much research, it will remain the same for historical value and uniqueness.
- Strategic Priorities and Tactics:
 - Growth, Vibrancy, Education and Membership Engagement was presented.
- Field Day feedback:
 - Positive learning experience for new hams to learn HF.
 - Experience in seeing various equipment and antennas.
 - Learning use of Band Pass Filters.
 - Socialize and camaraderie.
- Allstar and YSF provide alternate remote access to the repeater. Will pursue Allstar for analog access to Nets.
- Morse code class in the future will debut in September. Seeking students. Dick will be Advisor. Tie-in with CW Academy.

August (summer picnic) - no meeting

September:

- Summer picnic feedback
 - Big thumbs up from membership. Carter Davis' BBQ brisket was a hit.
 - Thanks to MAARS for allowing us to partner with them on the picnic.
- Allstar is being implemented - November timeframe.
- Swapfest and Annual Meeting may need to move the date and venue in 2024 due to issues with Elks Lodge.
- Considering adding another Special Event Station in 2024. Could be at one of the ethnic festivals.
- Ham of the Year award. Working on criteria.
- Text and link to Groups.io was added on the website.
- Tech & General Class Q&A Review. Need buy-in from VE, room location and club volunteers. Mentoring by Carter Davis, Dave Ingold and Jeff Conner.
- Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) is 10/21/2023
- Maker's Faire is 11/4 & 11/5/2023
- Fox Hunting will evolve to mobile and new locations for colder months.
- WIPOTA (Wisconsin Parks On The Air) after the members meeting at Havenswood State Park.
- Workshops are scheduled for October and December.
- Program: "Everything you wanted to know about FT8/FT4 by Joe Schwarz (N9UX)

Compiled by Rich Hawthorne, W9ABE, Secretary

EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS



PICTURE GALLERY



A taste of MRAC at HRO Superfest 2023: Fox hunt in "Club Corner," the history of MRAC, and advice from Ham Radio Boot Camp.



Teams finally located the fox near the lagoon at Brown Deer Park with a mobile start from HRO. Congrats to the first to find the fox, Carter W9ERR.



What a great day for a summer picnic with our friends at M.A.A.R.S. Sunshine, warm temps, HT toss, fox hunt, brats and corn and brisket



Workshops feature build-a-thons for useful ham radio projects like 6m halo antennas or code practice trainer/oscillators.

Maker Faire® Milwaukee

Discovery World Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5, 2023

On November 4th and 5th, the MRAC participated in Maker Faire Milwaukee at Discovery World by Lake Michigan. It is a gathering of many people who have the common desire to make something. The displays ranged from robots, soda can crusher, Legos for adults, electrical jewelry, model rockets, flying airplanes and model ships, and some items that I could not identify. All in all, it is a fascinating event.

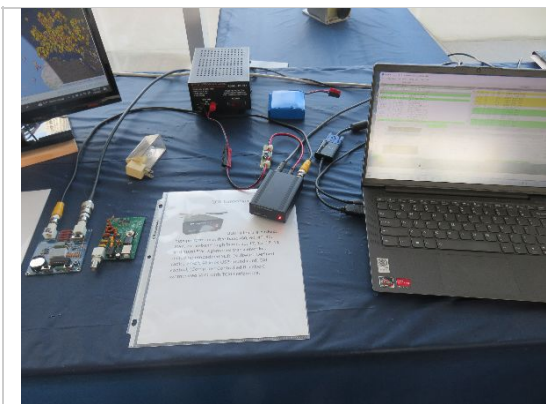
Our project was themed "What You Can Do With 5 Watts" by showcasing a working low-cost amateur radio station using digital communications, FT8. The radio was a QRP Labs QDX. It is a software defined transceiver that will fit in your shirt pocket and runs less than five watts output. Add a computer, power supply and a resonant antenna and you can work all bands from 80 meters to 20 meters. Our display contained a working station with large monitors for the public to see the WSJT-X dashboard as well as the PSK Reporter showing the global reach of our signal. A side table displayed some of the items we made in our Workshop Build-a-thons hoping to interest the other makers attending Maker Faire.

Our target audience was someone getting started in amateur radio who didn't have a lot of money to work with. For a modest outlay they could build a station that could work the world. We had a few people stop by who fit our audience. We found the biggest audience was other hams. They ranged from some new Tech license holders to experienced hams who knew about FT8 and wanted to see what we were doing. There were people who had a license in their younger days and had gotten away from the hobby to ones that knew about ham radio but had never taken the time to get a license. Our response to this wide audience was to answer their questions as best we could and try to encourage them to become active.

This simple station was operated inside the building with a loop antenna sitting on a table next to a window. It made eleven contacts over the two days of casual operating. Saturday was the best with nine contacts. Contacts were made as far west as Colorado. Our first contact was with W1AW/1. Not too bad considering a major CME hit Earth at this time suppressing propagation.

I would like to thank the club members that helped to make this event a success. Without their help in setting up, manning the booth and tearing down this display would not have happened.

Submitted by
Ted Carlson, N9KQQ
Maker Faire Coordinator



SPECIAL EVENT STATION

MRAC/107

Saturday, January 6, 2024

In celebration of Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club 107th anniversary of continuous operation, MRAC will be on the air from the HRO Showroom on Saturday, January 6, from 10 am to 4 pm.

HF Bands, times and mode of operation (SSB):

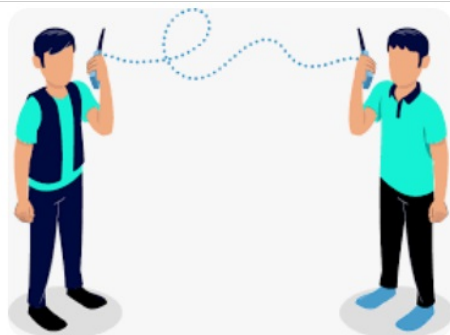
10 am - 12 pm: 10 meters or 15 meters

12 pm - 2 pm: 20 meters

2 pm - 4 pm: 40 meters

VHF Repeater: FM and C4FM including WiRES-X (#43588)

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



**MRAC
FM SIMPLEX
CONTEST
FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

MRAC WORKSHOPS

**First Saturdays at 9:00 am
HRO Milwaukee - Training Room**

**December 2, 2023
January 6, 2024**

MRAC's new Workshop program focusing on build-a-thons, workshop tools and test equipment, building technique, and project assistance. Our workshops are held on the first Saturday of each month, at 9:00 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:

December 2, 2023: Test equipment - bring your digital multimeter

January 6, 2024: Crimping adapters

February 3, 2024: 9:1 Unun for random wire antenna

Have an idea for a project or topic at a 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.**

TEST EQUIPMENT

What can you do with a digital multimeter? Still wrangling with an old style analog volt-ohm-meter and wondering what you're missing on a digital multimeter? Do all those funny symbols leave you flummoxed and confused?

Then this workshop is for you. We're leaving the soldering irons in the box and pulling out the test equipment to learn more about how to take measurements to assure the project you are building will work when powered up. Or to troubleshoot equipment that isn't functioning as it should.

We're also looking to our tech gurus to bring their test equipment for a show and tell on their functionality.

No reservations necessary. Just show up with your digital multimeter.

Submitted by
Dean KC9REN
Workshops Coordinator



YAESU

WiRES-X

Wide-Coverage Internet Repeater Enhancement System

SE Wisconsin Fusion Net

Saturdays - 7:00 pm CST

MRAC Repeater - 145.390 MHz

WiRES-X - #43588



Ask Questions - Get Answers

Tuesdays

8 pm - 145.390 MHz

W9RH repeater

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

August
John Stacie, KD9YPK

Mark Wojnowiak, AC9US

September

Kent Scheuerell, K9ZMU

Dave Minerath, KD9YYI

October

Feroz Ghouse, WU9N

November

Leroy Skalstad, WD9HOT

SILENT KEYS

With sadness and condolences to the families and friends, we report the following members or friends of the MRAC have become Silent Keys:

Chester Raineck, N9AAI (life member)

Ted Stiller, WA9RDI (life member)

Bill Spellman, WQ9A (former member)

Erich Berman, N9RTM (former member)

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.

- Member of a historical organization in the hobby
- Activities and events tied to your interests in the hobby
- 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

Fox Hunts

FM Simplex Contest

Wide coverage Repeater

System Fusion WIRES-X node

AllstarLink access

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
Groups.io
Website - W9RH.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Annual memberships expire on December 31, 2023. 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. Despite inflation, our fees have not gone up.

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 the qualification necessary for approval of a Family membership. 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 2024:

Leroy Skalstad, WD9HOT
Feroz Ghouse, WU1N
Dave Minerath, KD9YYI
Kent Scheuerell, K9ZMU

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 it's simply addicting to do so.

Here are the activities where our volunteers put forth their time and talent:

Auction, Custodians, FM Simplex Contest, Fox Hunts, Hams Helping Hams, Ham Radio Boot Camp, Historian, License, Trustee, Maker Faire, Repeater, Marketing, Membership, Member Meetings, Net Control Stations, Newsletter, Special Event Station, Summer Picnic, Swapfest, Workshops

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 them for their time and talent.

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 in his testimonial a couple of years ago, "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

A Volunteer Speaks Up

I've always been interested in radio. Perhaps it's because my father took the chassis out of an old TV cabinet and placed it on our built-in buffet in order to work on it. It sat like that for weeks (months?) with the tubes glowing. Don't be alarmed, the buffet surface was well above the possibility of little fingers touching anything dangerous.

In any case, the glowing tubes and resulting picture was and continues to be fascinating to me. This has led over the years to gaining a technical background, in my case, IT. Sometime in the early 60's, I became interested in CB Radio through a school friend who lived down the block from our house. In the early 80's I purchased one for the car. It was novel and it's when I started learning about antennas.

About the same time, one of the programmers I worked with brought in his portable radio. I complimented him on his CB radio. He said, nope, it's a ham radio. I said "what's that?" and thus began my ham radio curiosity if not immediate experience. Several years later I was driving through Franksville on my way home from work in Racine and noticed a sign standing outside a school there on Northwestern Avenue indicating a HAM class was taking place and all were welcome. My curiosity got the best of me so I pulled into the parking lot and walked in to ask some questions. The next week I started ham class, but a job change unfortunately put an early end to pursuing a technician license.

Life went on but my curiosity never waned. When I finally retired in 2010, my first goal was to complete the technician training course being offered in Racine. Weeks later I took the test and was licensed as a technician. I had the same feeling of accomplishment as I did when I passed the PMP exam which was huge in my IT career (those who know – know).

So now that I was a technician, what was next? There was the purchase of a portable radio (HT as I learned) as a reward for passing the technician test and of course the first QSO with John Kochanski KB9SXH (SX), and then the purchase of my first HF radio (Kenwood TS-2000), the migration through General and a year later, Extra. All of this was increasing my knowledge and experience both in radio operation and the many facets of ham radio. But still there was something missing. I was not attracted to contesting, but I wanted to be more involved. Over time, I learned about the many amateur radio clubs in the area and all over the world. I got to know some of the local leadership, many of whom were very helpful to me. They were all volunteers. I believe that is what was missing in my experience.

Volunteerism for me was born out of curiosity. How do the ham clubs work? How do they get things done? For me, there was only one way to find out. I joined several clubs and got to know the many people and personalities that make up a club's culture. Eventually I volunteered for a board position with the Milwaukee Radio Club (MRC). Next was getting involved in Milwaukee Radio Amateur Club (MRAC) and eventually volunteering for a board position with the club.

I'm the current treasurer for the club. I look back on the 13 years I've been a ham and I can say that the most satisfying of them was when I was doing something for the club or somebody else. Don't get me wrong. I don't volunteer all that easily. Sometimes I'm dragged into it because if no one else comes forward, that function does not get done. In other cases, the volunteer role resolves an area of experience I want to gain. In either case, volunteering has been satisfying in a way that technical experience does not fulfil for me.

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 OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new award serving as a recognition of a club member who has demonstrated outstanding volunteerism benefiting the club. The inaugural award will be presented in April 2024. Details are noted below:

1) Committee

Award qualification to be determined by the Member of the Year Committee. The committee will consist of a Chairperson and two at-large members. The members of the committee may consist of membership volunteers, or members appointed by the Board of Directors. A Chairperson and committee members will be solicited annually from the membership at the April membership meeting. (This will allow the

previous year's Committee award to be presented; a new committee starts with a fresh slate for next year). The Board of Directors may replace a member at their discretion to maintain integrity of the award. (Rich Hawthorne will be Chairperson for 2023 award. He will solicit committee participation at the November meeting.

2) Member of the Year Mission Statement

To acknowledge a member who has contributed significantly to the well-being of the club.

3) Criteria for nomination to be from the following areas.

a) A member in good standing who continually demonstrates a keen interest in educating hams or offering increased experience opportunities in the hobby. Chairing functions like Ham Radio Boot Camp, Hams Helping Hams, Workshops or other significant educational efforts.

b) A member in good standing who shows a high level of volunteerism to the club to support functions or duties. Chairing committees or being actively involved in the planning and/or setting up club activities like Field Day, Swapfests, Maker Faire, Special Event Station, Membership, Marketing, or the Annual Meeting and banquet as well as functional duties such as Repeater/Technical.

c) A member in good standing who actively promotes amateur radio and the club's mission through active participation at Swapfests, Maker Faire, or interactions with media, school education or programs, public service or community events, a unique service, or an idea that provides long term benefits to the club.

4) Nomination process.

a) Any member or members in good standing may submit a written nomination of a member to the Member of the Year committee for consideration. b) The written request must include examples of the nominee executing actions based on the criteria noted above to be considered for the award.

c) All written requests must be received by the committee by the closing of business at the January membership meeting.

d) The committee will inform the Board of Directors by the February Board meeting of their selection for Member Of The Year.

5) Presentation

Member Of The Year will be announced at either the Annual Banquet or April Membership Meeting. A handsome certificate and plaque will be presented to the winner at that time.



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.

W9RH.org IS YOUR INFORMATION RESOURCE

Newly added or updated:

- Event pictures
- Workshops
- Resources (listings)
- Groups.io link
- Maker Faire summary
- Member Directory
- Meeting dates and programs
- 4th Quarter Newsletter (Hamateur Chatter)



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

SCI-6 Sound Card Interface Kit

I believe it's important that we support local stores, manufacturers and artists. I frequently hear complaints about how nothing is made in America anymore. Luckily, we have a fantastic ham radio accessory manufacturer right here in Wisconsin – Unified Microsystems run by Gary, W9XT.

If you've been to any HRO (or AES) Superfest you've seen Gary, W9XT. I don't think he's missed a single one. He's local to SE Wisconsin, an avid contester and Dxer. His training is in electrical engineering so he knows what he's talking about.



One of the items he makes, and is available from your local HRO store, is his SCI-6 Sound Card Interface Kit. It's not only a kit that is fun to build but it's practical. You can use it to get your older radio on the air to use digital modes. You can use this little kit on your older radios to do modes like RTTY, PSK31 and FT8.

It's designed so there is proper isolation on the transmit and receive audio. He also designed the keying (PTT) circuit to be properly isolated by using an optically isolated circuit. The really cool part is that it's all done without needing to power the unit with an external power source.

It comes standard with the cables to run to your computer's soundcard (assuming your computer has the traditional speaker and mic jacks). You will need to make up cables to run to your radio. Gary thought ahead and used common RCA connectors on the unit to make it easier to wire up your own cables. I bet some of you already have everything you need in a junk box to build the necessary cables.

This is a kit so you will need some basic soldering skills to put it together but it shouldn't be out of reach of most hams to accomplish. Gary provides excellent

documentation on his website on building the unit with schematics and some trouble shooting.

At the time of this writing, the SCI-6 kit sells for \$24.95.

submitted by
Tom Pachner, W9TJP

MRAC VEC TESTING

Here is a recap from the MRAC VEC test session on October 28, 2023.

We had a busy exam session with thirteen candidates attending. Twelve candidates left with either a new upgraded license. One candidate left with their General after passing both the Technician and General exams.

Candidates earned the following licenses:

Technician: 7

General: 4

Extra: 1

Upcoming Test Dates

*****WALK-INS ONLY - NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*****

Testing is from 9:30AM* to 11:00AM

* The door opens about 9:00AM and testing starts around 9:30AM

- November 25, 2023
- December 30, 2023
- January 27, 2024
- February 24, 2024
- March 30, 2024
- April 27, 2024
- May 25, 2024

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
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Directors

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

W9RH License 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:

November 19: Contesting by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT
 December 16: Allstar on the MRAC Repeater

January 20: Raspberry Pi Uses for Amateur Radio

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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