



**Milwaukee  
Radio  
Amateurs'  
Club**



*"The ARRL's oldest  
affiliated club"*



# HAMATEUR CHATTER

Editor: Dick Strassburger, N9EEE  
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1st Quarter 2024

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## MEMBER MEETING NOTICE

Saturday, February 17, 2024  
10:00 am - 11:30 am

Program: Engaging WiRES-X on the W9RH Repeater  
Speaker: Repeater/Technical Committee

Ham Radio Outlet Training Room  
(Please park in front of the training room)

Zoom is available

Before the Meeting (8 am): Breakfast Social at Park Place Cafe  
([10843 W Good Hope Road](#))

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK



Greetings!

Cycle 25 is alive!!! This is the headline from last year's first quarter message and is still very relevant. Having heard from some noteworthy propagation gurus, the summer of 2024 will experience the peak of Cycle 25 sustaining into early 2025 and then a slow ride towards the bottom of the cycle over the next few years. If your intent is to chase DX, (pay attention QRPers), I wouldn't dally. It's not going to get as good as the present on the HF bands for a long time. 10 meters and 15 meters is the DX playground during daylight hours and often into late evening. One could park their HF rig on 10 meters for the next year and have their hands full. So, have at it.

And while you're on 10 meters, be sure to check out our [10 meter Net](#) on Friday evenings



at 8:00 pm on 28.490 MHz (SSB). You never know who will check in from around the country and elsewhere in North America, or South America.

Locally, keep your VHF radio handy for the [FM Simplex Contest](#) on Sunday, February 25.

Everything I just mentioned can be done with a Technician Class license. If you know someone who's interested in amateur radio, encourage them to get a Technician Class license and attend our [Ham Radio Boot Camp](#) in April. We'll help them open the doors to the greatest hobby on earth (and space!) and get on the air and experience the thrill of radio communication.

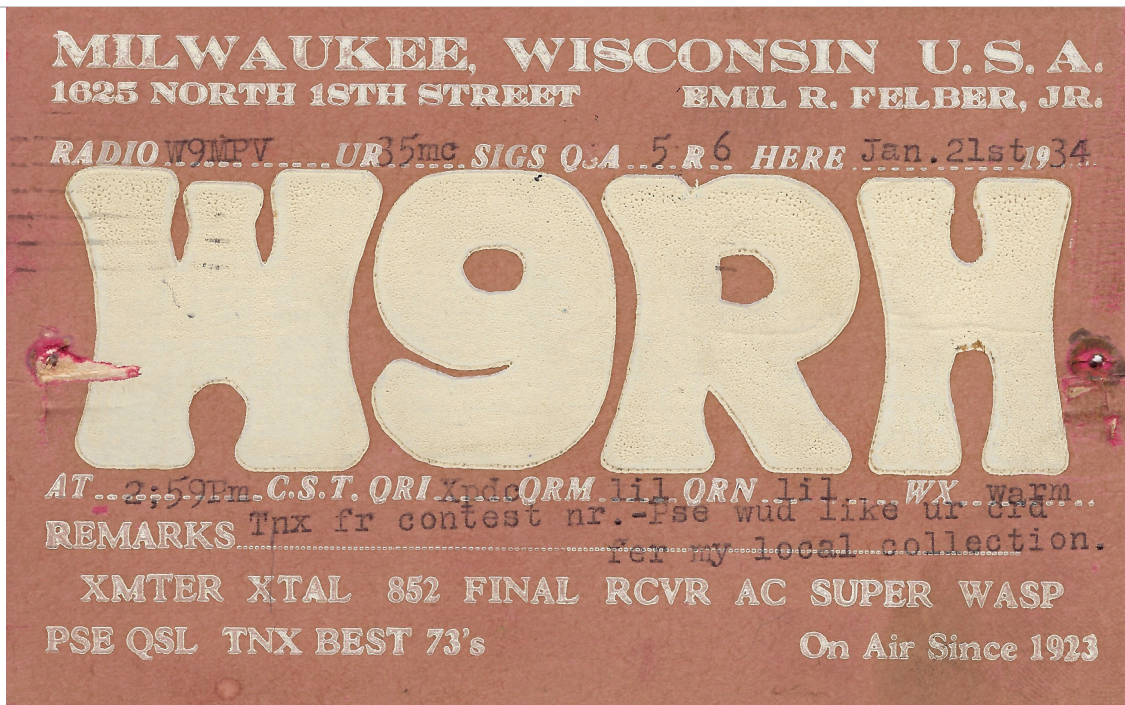
Meanwhile, the weather is warm. Go out and play radio!

--73--

Dick Strassburger

N9EEE

President, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club



## TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

### Account Balances

as of January 16, 2024

**Petty Cash:** \$20.00

**CD:** \$15,000

**Checking:** \$6,288.32

(Transactions:

Deposits: \$1,157.21

Membership Fees - New and Renewals: \$1,117.69

Donations: \$70.00

Interest from CD: \$69.29

Interest from Checking: \$.23

Expenses: \$0)

**Total Funds:** \$21,308.32

(Note: the 2024 Budget will be proposed, reviewed, and potentially approved at the next Board of Directors meeting on February 19, 2024. It will be presented at the March member meeting.)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dale Weblar, AB9DW, MRAC Treasurer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS SUMMARY

### November, December, January

#### BOARD MEETINGS

##### November

All seven board members in attendance by Zoom.

Dale read a detailed report to the Board. Increased activity due to several large item bills (banners, soldering irons for workshops and administrative expenses) paid. Deposits increase due to dues along with IRS and donations.

Renewal process starting.

Marketing: Tom Langer, (KD9FPC) has agreed to provide PR for the club. First trial is the Special Event Station/MRAC anniversary on 1/6/2024 at H.R.O..

Repeater/Technical: Allstar implementation delay due to repeater controller logic issues.

Member of the Year: Rich presented at the Membership Meeting the details of the award. The merit of the award, criteria and process for nomination.

##### December

Attending: Carter(W9ERR), Dick(N9EEE), Rich(W9ABE), Dean(KC9REN), Ted(N9KQQ) and Dale(AB9DW). Excused: Roger(AC9BT)

President's Report: Member meeting was well attended. No attendee feedback.

Treasurer's Report. Dale read a detailed report to the Board.

#### Committee Reports:

##### Membership:

- Member Renewal period underway:
  - 35 renewed - (38%), 57 have not renewed (62%)
  - Higher than normal unpaid renewals.
  - What is the cause?

Marketing: January Anniversary SES. Tom Langer, KD9FPC first trial as new PR. Tom is working on a press release for the media. Dick is working with Tom for the final draft. Dick sent an email to ARRL Section Manager for publicity and to schedule a W1AW contact

##### Repeater/Technical:

- Carter and Dick are added to the Committee. Dick will provide greater vigilance on the repeater.
- Committee meeting at the repeater site in the future.
- Allstar implementation: Interface parts are needed. Dave has ordered. ~\$50
- Repeater problems: non-members use of Fusion
  - Not checking for clear frequency
  - Not identifying themselves prior to accessing WiRES-X
- Tying up the repeater with multiple concurrent WiRES-X sessions
- Not disengaging from outside rooms
- Not actively participating on WiRES-X room - using access to monitor
- Interfering with Nets
- Solution: limit access to no more than 60 minutes daily by club members; 30 minutes by non-members. Email known violators regarding access policy and guidelines - invite to join the club. Update guidelines to convey WiRES-X is meant for active participation.
- Dick provided a detailed report from the logs on how long the repeater was being used/monitored with no traffic, or linked to America's room. Several times the repeater was linked up for almost 8 hours.
- The Board approved changes to the repeater use guidelines. 1) Access for non-members to be no more than 30 minutes daily. 2) suggest WiRES-X usage is meant for active participation, not passive monitoring. It was suggested WiRES-X include a link to the guidelines in the news section.

##### Member of the Year:

Rich reported the final rules and nomination form was presented to the membership. He provided paper copies at the meeting. He also explained the Award details listed on the website (thanks to whoever made the changes), so members may fill out and send email to the Committee or print a paper copy to mail. Rich reminded Dick for a design. Dick created a design and forwarded to Rich.

##### Activities:

- Field Day: Naga-waukee Park area #3 not available. Lake Park? Northpoint Lighthouse? Dick out-of-town during FD.
- Swapfest: emailed RF Adapter Guy to solicit interest and date availability. Declined. Going out of business. RF Adapter Guy is basically out of service. Very limited inventory left and is not doing Swapfests anymore.

- Special Event Station #1: January 6 at HRO. 107 year anniversary / 105 yrs ARRL affiliate. SM Jason to promote in his newsletter. Set-up Friday afternoon
- Special Event Station #2: German Fest is highly interested and considering. July 26-28. Dick should hear back by mid to late January.

#### Monthly Meeting programs:

- January: Raspberry Pi for Ham Radio - Rich and Roger
- February: Allstar 101 - Repeater implementation

#### Old Business:

1. Board Gmail accounts (Roger)
2. Grants requirements (Dale)
3. ARDC
4. Dale stated per his investigation this is more than insignificant. Similar to government grant programs. He will print out details.
5. ARRL Foundation
6. Dale is still working on details.
7. Priorities and Tactics Review:
8. Many priorities have been met. The board was challenged with coming up with ideas to better engage youth...exposure to the hobby - how.
9. Dick explained Tom(PR) will also attempt reaching out to Boys & Girl clubs, along with STEM schools.

#### Open Comments:

Could Fox Hunts provide the winner's name at membership meeting. Dick noted that anyone can make an announcement at member meetings.

### January

Attending: (Dick (N9EEE), Roger (AC9BT), Rich (W9ABE), Dean (KC9REN), Ted (N9KQQ) Carter (N9ERR). Excused: Dale (AB9DW)

President's Report: Member meeting was well attended. No member feedback other than Jerry's thumbs up. Encouraged Elmering at the meeting (Mike Creegan KD9WMJ participated). Future presentation opportunity "amateur radio uses of Raspberry Pi"

Dick will be out of town the month of March and unable to attend membership meeting. Roger will step in to host the March membership meeting due to Dick's absence.

Dick will attend the March Board meeting via Zoom. The regular Board meeting will be in-person at Roger's conference.

Treasurer Report: 2024 Budget Review moved to February Board meeting due to Dale being ill.

#### Committee Reports:

#### Membership:

- Membership Renewal period concluded at 81% retention rate. As of January 22, 2024: 88 Total Members, 8 Family, 65 Regular, 13 Life, 2 Associate. 17 have not renewed and will be reassigned as dropped.

- The 2024 roster will reflect the above. Those not renewed are removed from the active roster and placed with the ongoing list of non-renewals dating back to 2020. Only those on the active roster receive club mailings.

#### Marketing:

- PR has not been going well. Very poor communications and follow-up.
- Hamateur Chatter newsletter - deadline for input Feb 5

#### Repeater/Technical:

- Allstar implementation: per Dave at the member meeting, he has not had personal time to do any further implementation. Further discussion regarding guidelines and presentations are pending final implementation.
- Repeater problems seem to have cleared up following implementation and publicity of the updated WiRES-X guidelines. Received positive feedback regarding clarity of the guidelines.

Member of the Year: Problem with email forwarding of nominations was resolved on Thurs 1/18. Program extended to Feb 17.

#### Activities:

W9RH/107 special event station yielded 156 HF, 36 VHF contacts along with first contact with W1AW. 9 volunteers/operators. Website and Facebook updated with pictures.

Field Day: Dick investigating Fox Brook Park in Brookfield.

If any member knows of another site for Field Day, bring information to the next meeting. Rich will look at Malone Park in New Berlin and Fox River in Waukesha.

#### Special Event Station #2:

German Fest is favorable towards our activation. Their stipulation is our onsite presence during the majority of the Fest hours. Dick informed the Board German Fest required the club to maintain operations from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM both days. This is quite an ask from all the volunteers required to work. Board decided to look at another special event. One-day events would be preferred. If you know of an event please notify the Board.

Workshops: attendance is stagnant.

#### Swapfest:

Swapfest plans have stalled. Lack of parts vendor. Do we continue...how?

Discussion on how to move forward without a parts vendor. Board approved dropping a Swapfest in 2024. Our finances are not dependent on a Swapfest.

#### Monthly Membership Meeting Plans:

- February: Engaging WiRES-X on W9RH Repeater
- March: Raspberry Pi Part 2 Roger & Rich
- April: Annual Meeting/program at Elks Lodge. Verbal confirmation with lodge and caterer.

#### Old Business:

##### Priorities and Tactics Review:

Many priorities have been met. The board was challenged with coming up with ideas to better engage youth...exposure to the hobby - how? (Dick - identify and engage with STEM schools).

New Business:

BOD Election Process - Feb BOD meeting

Members up for election are Dale, Dean and Roger.

## **MEMBER MEETINGS**

### **November**

Total attendance 19 members including four Board members. Dale, Roger and Ted were excused.

President's Message: Dick acknowledged and thanked all the members who support the club in many different ways. If members do not support the club, there is no club.

Financial Report: Dale provided a report to membership.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

- Introduced Gary KD9VGL: He will be joining the wingham team welcoming new members and helping them navigate the club during their first year of membership.
- Roster: 108 total members.
- Membership renewal due by December 31. Please use the online registration form and PayPal payment. Alternate methods include cash in-person, or check by mail.
- Publicity/PR: Tom Langer( KD9FPC) He is tasked with building awareness for club events and promoting MRAC as the premier #1 club in the area.
- Workshops: Dean announced December will be focused on using test equipment. Bring any equipment you own to learn how to use or demonstrate. January's workshop features how to crimp adapters and build your own cables.
- Special Event Station: to celebrate MRAC's 107 years anniversary as a club, and 105 years as ARRL affiliation: Sat Jan 6 10am - 4pm at H.R.O. showroom.
- Member Of The Year: Rich provided a detailed hand out - criteria, process, and nomination information - to the membership. Award to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

What we're working on:

- Allstar implementation - technical conflict with bridging the Allstar node and DR2-X controller: Roll-out will be delayed. Dave (KA9WXN) is working on the issue. Membership presentation delayed, until ready for testing and usage.
- 2nd Special Event Station: Looking to do it at one of the ethnic festivals. (German Fest is the target)
- Tech and General Class Q&A: Review will not be endorsed or supported by MRAC VEC. Without their involvement, it will be difficult to move forward. This priority is put on hold, indefinitely.
- Grant application consideration: this requires a compelling and worthy endeavor that the entire club supports, not just a few. Ideas have been surfaced but may be too lofty. Any member ideas, please contact a Board member.

**Program: Presenter: Gary Sutcliffe (W9XT), " Successful Contesting Tips"**

### **December**

Total attendance:15 members (13 in person and 2 by Zoom). All Board members present except for Roger who was excused (for family reasons).

Welcome: Dick asked if there were any new members or guests present. Since no new members or guest introductions were skipped. Dick did want to mention that Frank DeRaimo (KD9QTH), one of the club's first CW class graduates, made his first contact to Winnipeg Manitoba.

President's Message: Harborcreek HS students - ARISS - National media. 15 students attending at this school located in Pennsylvania received credit for their ISS contact. This accomplishment resulted in National press coverage for the school, teacher and students. Great press for youth in Ham Radio. The club needs to find a way to engage youth with our ARISS Equipment and member knowledge. If a member knows of a school or organization that may be interested contact the Board.

Financial Report: Dale provided a report to membership.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

- 13 Life, 2 student club, 97 Regular.
- 34 renewed or new - 37% retention rate
- Renew now or we'll need to incur mailing costs to remind you again.
- Membership committee will be reaching out in January to those who did not renew. Renew today after the meeting.

Activities:

- Special Event Station - Jan 6. Commemorative certificate Walk-in or pre-sign-up to operate - Sign-up Genius. This will celebrate the club's 107 years of existence and 105 years with the ARRL. Operational from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Workshops:

- (Dean) Jan - crimping connectors. January 6, 2023 9:00am-11:00am. Feb - test kit.

Repeater/Technical:

- Carter and Dick added to committee.
- Dealing with unintentional incursions via WiRES-X. Dick revamped the WiRES-X guidelines to provide greater clarity to all users, and limitations for non-club members. Please review the guidelines for Fusion, especially accessing it and disengaging any outside rooms you may connect to.

Please review repeater guidelines. Non-member use is a big part of the problem. Allstar implementation is still a work in progress. Dave is still working on a solution.

Swapfest:

- Looking for another committee member (fresh ideas)
- Any member interested please contact the Board or the Committee (Dick (N9EEE), Carter (W9ERR)). We are still looking for one or two more volunteers. Looking for new vendor. Tower Electronics will not be attending, due to there cutback of attending swapfests in the area. Looking for a new parts vendor.

Member Feedback:

- Fred (W9KEY) mentioned that some of the club nets seem to be underutilized. The website has a listing of Club Nets under the "Get on the Air" section. A list of other clubs' Nets in the area is located on the website.



## Announcement:

- Rich provided a handout to members present a copy of the criteria and nomination form. He also stated on the Club's website under "MRAC Info" is the award criteria list and nomination form. The form may be filled out on the website and emailed to the Committee. A member may also print it out and mail it to the Chairperson Rich (W9ABE).
- The committee will consist of three members. Rich Hawthorne (W9ABE), Joe Schwarz (N9UX), and Jeff Conner (KD9VFH)

## January

Total attendance: 29 (27 in-person and 2 by Zoom) All 7 Board members (Dick (N9EEE), Roger (AC9BT), Dale (AB9DW), Rich (W9ABE), Dean (KC9REN), Ted (N9KQQ) Carter (N9ERR) present. This also included 5 guests.

President's Message: W9RH/107 Special Event Station

Contacts made: W1AW along with 156 (HF) and 36 (VHF and WiRES-X).

Thanks to Tom (W9JPP) and Ham Radio Outlet for the use of their facility.

Thanks to the following members for setup/teardown and operation of the radios. Jeff Weber (AD9AB), Jeff Connor (KD9VGH), Gary (KD9VGL), Dave (KD9YYI), Ted (N9KQQ), Dick (N9EEE), Rich (W9ABE), Carter (W9ERR) and Fred (W9KEY)

Financial Report: Dale (AB9DW) Provided the report to the membership.

## Committee Reports:

Membership: (Dick)

- Total Members - 79, Family - 6, Regular - 57, Life - 13, Assoc - 3  
Non-renewal - 28 (28%), Claim to renew - 14 (14%) Membership committee will be making calls to contact non-paid Members. If member is not renewing the committee will ask what is their reason. This information assist leadership to determine what membership is looking for in the club.

## Repeater:

- WiRES-X - updated guidelines (Dick)  
Abuse by non-members. Contacts were made and they were informed how WiRES-X worked. Membership reminded, to look at guidelines. A future presentation will be held to educate/remind how to properly connect and disconnect WiRES-X.
- Allstar - status (Dave) Working on issues with the timing of the repeater going from analog to digital.

## Member of the Year:

(Rich) Explained problem with online submission form to membership. Therefore a new deadline for submissions extended to close of business on February 17, 2024 membership meeting. Committee to consist of three members. Rich (W9ABE), Jeff Connor (KD9VGH) and Joe Schwarz (N9UX).

## Member Feedback:

The following topics were mentioned by members.

- Ham Vendor List (Dick explained that a vendor list resides in the Resources area of the website. Only those that have been vetted and endorsed by club members appear).

- There was discussion and explanation that vendors do not always attend events at some locations. The suggestion was to look at specific events (Dayton) or ARRL website for listings
- List of workshop builds (Dick explained that the website contains pages for all current and prior workshops with photos and parts lists.
- Repeater Tour: A club tour is being planned for early Spring.
- Band-pass filters (workshop): Dean questioned the need. Dick noted the club needed a set of 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter BP filters. He would prefer a workshop to build one of each with club members doing the work. He asked Dean to schedule this for May.

Announcements:

Workshops:

- Feb 3 - Transistor Tester.
- Order kit now. Several members reported kits taking time to ship.
- March 2 - 9:1 Random wire unun You will need a 6-40 meter tuner.

FM Simplex Contest - Feb 25. Dave (K9WXN) and Gary (KD9VGL) are working on it now. They are going to online logs to speed up the process.

February meeting - Feb 17 they will be doing a presentation and explain in further details.

Ham Radio Boot Camp - April 13

Requires attendee to be Licensed. Let's get the word out to help new or hams coming back to the hobby.

Program: Raspberry Pi for Amateur Radio: Rich W9ABE and Roger AC9BT. Their presentation consisted of slides with history and various uses. However, an issue caused a Pi to fail before the presentation. They plan on doing another presentation in the future on the various uses in Ham radio with the PIs.

Compiled by Rich Hawthorne, W9ABE, Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOTICE

### ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors is the visioning and strategic planning body within the club.

If you are interested in participating on the Board of Directors for the term 2024 - 2026, please watch for an upcoming email regarding the nomination process. Noted below is the election process as identified in the Bylaws of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club.

Section 3: DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND TERMS OF OFFICE: The Board of Directors shall consist of seven (7) persons. There shall be four (4) Officers and three (3) at-large Directors. All Directors shall be elected by the voting membership. The term of director seats shall be staggered so that no more than four (4) are eligible in a given year. The term of office shall be two (2) years and at the expiration of any term any Officer or Director may be re-elected. Director terms are for the period May through April of each

year.

Section 4: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: : The election of a Board of Directors shall occur at an annual meeting to be held in April of each year, in-person or virtually as circumstances warrant. Directors whose positions are not expiring shall serve as the Nominating Committee and select a Chair to the Committee. Their responsibility is to seek qualified candidates who possess the interest and aptitude to hold a Director, and potentially an Officer position. Candidates may include directors who seek re-election, self-nominations, and those who are solicited by the Nominating Committee or other members in the club and accept the nomination. The nominating period shall commence March 1 of each year. The election shall be held during the annual meeting held in April, led by the Chair or other member of the Nominating Committee.

Board members whose terms are expiring in April are:

Dale Webler, AB9DW

Dean Berglund, KC9REN

Roger Heindl, AC9BT

## MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The easiest way to show appreciation of a volunteer is to acknowledge their effort. Have you nominated a fellow member for Member of the Year? If not, consider the criteria and make a nomination. The deadline is Saturday, February 17.

Member of the Year



## EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

**Milwaukee Radio  
Amateurs' Club**

# **ACTIVITIES**

**Workshop: 9:1 Unun - Feb 3**

# **EVENTS**

**FM Simplex Contest - Feb 25**

**Ham Radio Boot Camp - Apr 13**

**Annual Meeting - Apr 20**

**Not Makin' Dayton - May 18**

**Auction - May 18**



# SPECIAL EVENT STATION

## W9RH/107

MRAC celebrated 107 years of continuous service to the Milwaukee area amateur radio community with a special event station operating on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from the Ham Radio Outlet showroom. Over 200 contacts were made on 20 meters SSB, and the MRAC repeater in FM and C4FM mode including a few via WIRES-X. While a few members observed the operation, on-air operators included Dick (N9EEE), Jeff (KD9VGH), Rich (W9ABE), Fred (W9KEY), Jeff (AD9AB), Dave (KD9YYI), Carter, W9ERR; Gary (KD9VGL), and Ted, N9KQQ.





## 2023 FIELD DAY RESULTS

Over 1.2 million QSOs were made during the 2023 ARRL Field Day. That's across all stations. We didn't make that many, maybe something closer to 245. Yet, we had a great time. We picked a new park, set up in a pavilion on Saturday and again Sunday, shot antennas into the trees, and did it all legally and within scrutiny of our safety officer.





More details and pictures are provided on our [web page](#), so I thought I'd give you the results in comparison to some selected "competitors." When two or more stations are vying for the same result, that's a competition. My selection was based strictly on those in our category that have a unique name of the club, or that it was in Wisconsin. WD6BNY was camping just up the hill from us and thusly operated well into the wee hours. That was the night of a wind and rain storm...our group slept soundly and returned the next day to an easy set-up having left our antennas in place.

Field Day 2024 will take place on June 22 & 23 at Naga-waukee Park off I-94 and Hwy 83 in Delafield. It's a great site for operating, visitors, facilities, and access. If its hot that day, go jump in the lake...literally.

Here's a snippet of the results. You're better off clicking on the graphic to see an expanded view.

Call	GOTA CALL	FINAL SCORE	Category	Section	CLUB NAME	Participants	Power Source	TOTAL CW QSOs	TOTAL DIGITAL QSOs
W9CQO	AE9MY	9,202	3A	WI	Ozaukee RC	25	G	1216	48
N9BCN	W9CZK	5,571	3A	IN	Piglet Radio	27	G	42	438
N2OB	N2CW	5,419	3A	SNJ	Old Barney ARC	27	G	444	302
AF?S	K0NTS	5,098	3A	CO	Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Assn./Colorado Traffic League	22	G	345	263
K7JAR	KG7VMV	4,777	3A	EWA	Panoramaland ARC	20	G	0	695
K6MMM	N6OTA	3,421	3A	SCV	Monkey Lover's Radio Consortium	50	G	240	261
K9BY		3,350	3A	WI	Greater Beloit ARC	12	G	450	140
KD8NOM		2,900	3A	OH	Dresden Elementary ARS	12	G	159	44
W3AI		2,664	3A	EPA	RF Hill ARC	20	G	222	0
W9WLX		2,494	3A	WI	WD6BNY Team	3	B	74	369
K9HAM		2,016	3A	IL	Lewis and Clark RC	37	B	5	110
W9UP		1,902	3A	WI	Riverland ARC	24	G	0	109
W9RH		1,800	3A	WI	Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club	11	G	61	9
W9WAP		1,596	3A	WI	Waupaca Co. ARES/RACES	14	G	0	66
AA5KC		998	3A	STX	Las Moras ARC	4	G	34	0
AA9UF		746	3A	IL	Illinois Cornfield ARC	3	G	0	99
W9VCF		546	3A	IN	Madison Co. (IN) ARC	18	G	0	0
K6GGL		498	3A	SCV	Alphabet ARC	3	S	0	32

Submitted by  
Dick Strassburger, N9EEE





Have you ever wondered how far you can talk on simplex from your home, car, or HT? Have you ever had a simplex contact on Fusion or Dstar? Looking for a reason to use your new tape measure Yagi or homebrew mag loop antenna? Then we have just the event for you on February 25th, 2024. MRAC will hold its 21st Annual FM Simplex Contest from 1pm - 4pm.

The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and to expand the scope of their VHF-UHF operating techniques beyond what's needed for standard repeater operation. We are also encouraging digital simplex operation on FUSION and DStar modes. This is a fun event that allows you to be creative and tap into your competitive nature. [FM Simplex Contest Rules](#).

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# FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

sponsored by

## Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM CT

6M, 2M, 1.25M, 70CM

INCLUDING FUSION AND D-STAR



**SPONSOR:** Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC)

**PURPOSE:** to promote FM simplex operation and VHF/UHF contesting while giving new hams an opportunity to develop their contesting skills.

**TIMING:** 2m (1:00 pm - 2:00 pm), 70cm (2:00 pm - 2:30 pm),  
6m (2:30 pm - 3:00 pm), 1.25m (3:00 pm - 3:30 pm),  
Digital Voice (3:30 pm - 4:00 pm)

**REGION:** Southeastern Wisconsin (Grids EN52, EN53, EN62, EN63).  
Contacts from other grid squares are welcome.

**FREQUENCIES:** simplex only, no repeaters or satellites. Please view the rules for specific simplex frequencies prior to operation.

**DIGITAL VOICE:** Fusion and D-Star.

**EXCHANGE:** call sign and four character grid square.

**AWARD CATEGORIES:** Base, Mobile, HT, and Club.

**AWARDS:** Certificates for each 1st place per category, per band. Limit one award per person. Winning club is recognized on the plaque at HRO Milwaukee.

Please review the Rules and Log Submission at [www.W9RH.org](http://www.W9RH.org)

**ENTRIES DUE BY MARCH 18, 2024**

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## Get Ready For Our Annual Auction


## Saturday May 18, 2024

The annual auction is our ONE and Only fundraiser of the year. We depend on your generous donation of functional amateur radio-related equipment. Donations from the Estates from Silent Keys are also gladly accepted and very appreciated.

You can help. Those radios you've put to the side to make room for new gear...think about donating them. Test equipment and accessories are great auction items, too.

So before you head off to the Swapfest to sell your gear, think about our Annual Auction. We're now a 501c(3) so your donation may be tax deductible.

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A decorative border of stylized camouflage leaves in shades of green, olive, and tan surrounds the central text.

# 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: SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024**

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

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**MRAC WORKSHOPS**

1st Saturdays  
9:00 am - 11:00 am  
HRO Meeting Room

MRAC Workshops are held the first Saturday of every month. Topics can range from soldering techniques to product builds. Many are build-a-thons where members select a project and simultaneously build it with guidance under the direction of Dean, KC9REN, workshop coordinator. A new project or build is selected each month and usually noted on the [website](#) 60-90 days in advance to assure timely delivery of necessary parts and supplies.

March 2: Build a 9:1 impedance transformer for end fed random wire antenna

April 6: tbd

May 4: tbd

June 1: tbd

Advance registration is required for all workshops. Please visit our web pages for each product build, requirements, and registration.

**Workshops**



## **Ask Questions - Get Answers**

Tuesdays

8 pm - 145.390 MHz

W9RH repeater

### **Visit our other Nets:**

10 Meter Net: Fridays at 8:00 pm on 28.490 MHz

2 Meter Net: Fridays at 9:00 pm on W9RH repeater

Fusion Net: Saturdays at 7:00 pm on W9RH repeater

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



for renewing your membership in the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club. We had a stupendous response and are gladdened to know our efforts to provide programs, events, and activities align with your needs and desires for an amateur radio club.

We currently have 96 members of which 63% are ARRL members\*

Our census is Regular - 72, Family - 8, Life - 13, Student - 2, Associate - 1

\* to maintain affiliation, at least 51% of our club's voting members must also be ARRL members

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

January

John Basich, KD9ZQW  
Roger Lentz, K9AD  
Scott Smith, W9MBL  
Vera Trifunovich, KD9ZHE

## Congratulations!

Eli Kelling, KD9ZQD (Technician, General)

## Call Sign Change

William Henderson, WM9V (W9MKE)  
Kevin Hough, K0WRK (KD9WRK)

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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 (monthly)  
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, such as ARISS  
Facebook Group  
Quarterly e-newsletter

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## A Volunteer Speaks Up

### My HAM journey

Just after Christmas 2021, I was watching YouTube videos and found one saying you too can do ham radio with a cheap radio. I watched it and realized they had removed the Morse code test component of it, so I was interested. I knew about ham radio and what it was, but had never pursued it as I was not interested in Morse code, and didn't have funds for buying a radio. Now with a Baofeng, I could get my license.

I spent the month of January studying for the test. I went for Technician and General at the end of January and passed. I did have a background in electronics engineering, so the concepts were not foreign to me. I got my shiny new ticket and found I had a case of mic fright. Luckily, the club was there for me. The first Ham Radio Boot Camp was just around the corner. I signed up immediately! With boot camp and the Rookie Net, I got acclimated to getting on the air and learning more.

I found myself enjoying the hobby and the club activities, so I decided that I was going to go all in and signed up for a trial run at Net Control on the Rookie Net. (Tuesday nights at 8 pm on the repeater for anyone who doesn't know.) I found it to be a lot of fun and kept at it. One thing that is fun about the Net is talking and learning about different aspects of the hobby. We have had discussions on station setup, grounding, antennas, fox hunting, logging and many other topics.

The net taught me a lot of things and showed me areas I wanted to learn more about. When Field Day rolled around, I decided to participate as fully as I was able. I went to help do setup, and spent the day down at the site both days fully. I learned a lot about operating, contesting and even FT8. Also, helping with setup, I learned a bit about

antennas. I saw a fan dipole at field day and got some ideas! I did build one that is now on top of my roof and is a great performing antenna.

The club has been offering many activities to keep the interest up. The build-a-thons, and fox hunting, and ham fests are all good places to learn new things.

I have found that by jumping into the activities and lending a hand, I am able to get involved more and have learned many things from the more "seasoned" hams. The club has helped in teaching me many new aspects of the hobby and are generally a fun group to have a chat with!

I am looking forward to many more years of participating and learning more about radio.

(Editor's note: Carter is a member of the Board of Directors, serves on the Repeater/Technical Committee, and is Custodian of the club's inventory)

Submitted by Carter Davis, W9ERR

## 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
- Special Event Station
- FM Simplex Contest
- Ham Radio Boot Camp
- Member Directory
- Newsletter (Hamateur Chatter)

**W9RH.ORG**

### Be Part Of The Conversation

#### MRAC's Groups.io

Remember the old Yahoo! Groups dialogue exchange? The creator of that has now created Groups.io where dialogue and files are freely exchanged within the MRAC community. Yes, it's locked down to only current members of the club. That makes it accountable to each other.

If you're looking for knowledge, assistance, or expertise, want to share a project, show pictures of your latest portable outing, invite others, or just want to share something interesting related to amateur radio, this is the place to be. Looking for an Elmer? You'll find one here.

If you're not a member of our groups.io, [join now](#) and get in the know.





## 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://Facebook.com/groups/MilwaukeeHamRadio)

## MRAC VEC TESTING

January 2024:

We had a good turnout for the exam session with 13 candidates attending. One candidate passed both their Technician and General exam. No Extra exams were administered during this exam session.

Candidates earned the following licenses:

Technician: 6

General: 4

Extra: 0

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.

### Upcoming Test Dates

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

Testing is from 9:30 am to 11:00 am

(The door opens about 9:00 am and testing starts around 9:30 am)

- February 24, 2024
- March 30, 2024
- April 27, 2024
- May 25, 2024

### 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://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

### **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).

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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 DeFebo, 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:

February 17: Engaging WiRES-X on the W9RH Repeater

March 16: Raspberry Pi uses in Amateur Radio

April 20: Annual meeting - speaker, elections, member of the year

May 18: Annual Auction

### 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](#).

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# Hamfest 2024

Buy/Sell Amateur Radio Equipment, Electronics and Computer Gear



**Sunday**  
**March 17, 2024**

**Free Parking!**



ADVANCE SALES: Admission: \$8 8' Table Space - \$15/ea  
AT THE DOOR: Admission: \$10 8' Table Space - \$25/ea

**Amateur Volunteer Exams starting at 9:30 AM**

**— By Appointment Only —**

You **MUST** contact the Club at [TCARC@W9MQB.org](mailto:TCARC@W9MQB.org) in advance  
to make an appointment OR register online. Your FRN Number is Required

**Presented by: TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - W9MQB**  
**Talk-in on the 145.49- Repeater (CTCSS 123.0)**

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR PARK  
ACTIVITY CENTER  
503 NORTH JACKSON AVE.  
JEFFERSON, WI 53549

- Vendors will be admitted at 6:30 AM
- Vendors-only unloading zone on West side
- Food and beverages available
- General Admission and Sales begin at 8:00AM



Take I94 to Exit 267 (Johnson Creek), Head South on  
26 to the Hwy 18 Exit. Exit East on Hwy 18 and turn  
left onto Jackson Ave. Look for the Fair Park sign.



Next year's date: March 16, 2025

Register online at <https://www.W9MQB.org/SwapFest>

## Mail-In Registration Form

Admission: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Note: Table Reservation does not include Admission.

8' Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail-In Reservations require that we receive your payment BY MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> with a self-addressed, stamped envelope at:

**TCARC Hamfest 2024, P.O. Box 321, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538**

Questions? Call Michael Zore (AE9MZ) at 414-455-5493 or Email: [hamfest@w9mqb.org](mailto:hamfest@w9mqb.org)



The Ozaukee Radio Club presents its 44th Annual Spring Indoor  
**Amateur Radio, Electronics & Computer**



# SWAPFEST



**featuring TOWER ELECTRONICS!**

Saturday, April 27, 2024 – 8 AM to 12 PM (setup begins at 6 AM)

Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Center (Milwaukee Curling Club)  
W67N890 Washington Ave., Cedarburg, WI 53012

Talk-in: 146.97 MHz – PL 127.3 Hz

Door Prizes! Free WIFI

Food sold by Cub Scout Pack 516/586

Admission: \$7.00 at the gate

Children 12 and under FREE, with a paid adult admission

6 ft. Tables: \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door, if available

Use the Order Form below, email, or call Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY at 262-421-6351

Email: [swapfest@ozaukeeradioclub.org](mailto:swapfest@ozaukeeradioclub.org)

More information: <http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org/> or <http://www.facebook.com/orcwi>

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For Advance Tickets and Tables, send check with a **SASE** (Business-Size #10 envelope) to:  
Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY- W69N905 Evergreen Ct N, #202, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1170

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7 = \_\_\_\_\_ (Advance tickets are double stub)

No. of Tables: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12 = \_\_\_\_\_ Electricity: Yes (Add \$5) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ **(Please make checks payable to ORC)**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: [w9rh@arrl.net](mailto:w9rh@arrl.net)

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

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/MRAC.W9RH](https://facebook.com/MRAC.W9RH)



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**Our mailing address is:**

P.O. Box 26938  
Milwaukee, WI 53226

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