



# RRRC NEWS

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB



Volume 44 Number 12

www.rrrc.net

DECEMBER 2023

## DECEMBER 2023 RRRC

### Meeting Minutes



The monthly meeting of the Rock River Radio Club was held on **DECEMBER 5TH, 2023**, using Zoom meetings. by

President Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD. The meeting and called it to order at **7:04** pm CST

**SECRETARY REPORT** Ray Teschke, KD9QLE, Secretary presented the minutes of the **NOVEMBER** meeting as published in the **NOVEMBER** Newsletter. Newsletter.

Motion to approve by: Ralph Hasler, N9WBL

Second by: David DePover, K9MKP,

Motion Carried

**TREASURER REPORT** Dave DePover K9MKP

Motion to approve by: Ralph Hasler, N9WBL

Second by: Ray Teschke, KD9QLE

Motion Carried

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**ARES/REPEATER:** Dale Marks, WB9ADB

Nothing to report

**TRAILER:** Len Buchda, KB9GDY

Absent

**REPEATER:** Dale Marks, WB9ADB

Nothing to report

**FIELD DAYS:** Dale Marks, WB9ADB

Need to get campsite reservations in right after the first of the year. If you want to have a campsite for next year let Dale know so he has a head count.

### OLD BUSINESS

-Elections were held at the November meeting. Results were posted in the November news letter

-Holiday Party 25 attendees

Peter Frey named Ham of the Year.

Ryan Klavekoske received a plaque for being a club MENTOR

Mike received a Recognition Award for his contributions to the club and for use of his room for meetings.

Connie DePover is stepping down as head of the Holiday Party ELF committee.

### NEW BUSINESS

-President Ryan reported he had nothing new.

-New President Peter Frey, KD9UVX is asking for special input such as guest speakers or presentations.

-David DePover, K9MKP again brought up that expenses for the Field Day are too high. Especially for the pot luck. It was suggested by Ray Teschke, KD9QLE that the club purchase less food items and more be brought by those attending the meal.

-Ryan Klavekoske, KB9OWD to check on insurance cost with ARRL.

#### President

Ryan Klavekoske KB9OWD 920-356-8757

#### Vice President

Peter Frey 920-344-1378

#### Secretary

Ray Teschke KD9QLE 920-210-9540

#### Treasurer

Dave DePover K9MKP 920-210-2209

#### Club Historian

Gary Pedersen KA9BAE 920-386-4666

### 2023 Officers



#### Emergency Coordinator

Dale Marks WB9ADB 920-485-4234

#### Assistant Emergency Coordinator

Ryan Klavekoske KB9OWD 920-356-8757

#### Repeater Directors

Dale Marks WB9ADB 920-485-4234 (Trustee)

Dave DePover K9MKP 920-210-2209

Keith Lodahl, WJ9L 920-387-4675

Ray Teschke KD9QLE 920-210-9540

**Webmaster** Lucky Lasanske 920-216-4268

**This is Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD last run meeting as club President. The Club would like to Thank Ryan for his 1 + 14 years of service.**

### **MOTION TO ADJOURNED**

President Ryan Klavekoske KB9OWD, heard no further business and requested the meeting be adjourned.  
Motion to adjourn by: Ralph Hasler, N9WBL  
Second by: Ray Teschke, KD9QLE  
Motion Carried

### **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:33 pm**

Respectfully Submitted  
Raymond Teschke, KD9QLE  
Secretary, Rock River Radio Club.

**Dues for 2024 are due. Send your check and the membership form. See form at the end of all newsletters to Dave Depover His address is on the form.**

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RRRC WILL BE HELD ONLINE TUESDAY, **January 2nd** AT 7:00 PM USING ZOOM MEETINGS, A LINK TO JOIN WILL BE EMAILED OUT YOU.



The monthly RRRC breakfast get-together will be on Saturday, **JANUARY 6**, at the Village Garden Restaurant in Juneau. All are welcome, so join us at around 8:00 AM for a pleasant informal gathering.

### **RRRC DECEMBER 2023 MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Ray Teschke, KD9QLE, Horicon  
Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD, Beaver Dam  
Brad Gehrt, KA9JDE, Rush Lake  
Dale Marks, WB9ADB, Burnett  
David DePover, K9MKP, Juneau  
Dennis Weigel, KC9ICA ,Horicon  
Gary Pedersen , KA9BAE , Juneau  
Jerry Arndt ,NO9U, Watertown  
Peter Frey, KD9UVX, Beaver Dam  
Ralph Hasler, N9WBL ,Oconomowoc  
Steve Burczyk, KE8PA, Beaver Dam

# AWARDS 2024

Ryan, KB9OWD, was recognized for his 15 years of service as our club president at our annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Ryan has agreed to be vice president in 2024.

Thanks, Ryan, for being a great role model and leader of the club for the past 15 years!



*Ryan, KB9OWD, accepting his recognition award from Connie, K9CID*



*Connie, K9CID, presenting Mike, KB9LXP, with his recognition award from the RRRC*

Mike, KB9LXP, was also recognized for being an outstanding member of the Rock River Radio Club.

Over the years Mike has helped with maintaining and upgrading our RRRC Emergency Trailer, as well as opening his home to us for in-person club meetings. Mike is always willing to help, and we can count on him to be part of our RRRC weekly nets on a regular basis.

Thanks, Mike, for everything you do!

Peter, KD9UVX, was honored as our RRRC Ham of the Year for 2023.

Peter is also taking the position of president of our club starting January 1, 2024. He has "big shoes to fill" after taking the reins from Ryan, KB9OWD. We have no doubt Peter will do an awesome job of running the club.

It is so cool to see newer members of the club get involved and share ideas as we get closer to the RRRC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2030.



*Brad, KA9JDE, presenting Peter, KD9UVX, with the RRRC's 2023 Ham of the Year award at our Christmas party*



## RRRC MEMBER PROFILE

### Cameron "Moe" Frey – KD9VGV

Back in July of 2022 we featured Peter (KD9UVX) and Cameron (KD9VGV) in a joint father and son RRRC Member Profile article. WOW have things changed since that article was published! I decided to do a new article to feature Cameron by himself to let club members see what he has been up to in the last year or so.

I want to start by saying Cameron is one cool kid! His QRZ page is so nicely done I decided to share most of its content in this article:

"I am a 11 year old ham just getting in to the hobby following my dad."

"I got my Tech in early June of 2022 and got my General 7 months later in January the day before the weekend of Winter Field Day."

"Rigs: I am currently using an ICOM ID-880H, Wouxun HT, Yaesu FT-70d HT, BTECH, and Alinco DR-605 as my 2 meter/ 70cm radios. For HF we have a Yaesu FT-891, Icom 7300, and an Icom 706 MIIG."

"Antennas: For VHF/UHF I have a 6m dipole and a 2m/70cm J pole and a magnetic mount 70cm antenna on a pie tin outside my window. For HF I have some homemade antennas and an Eagle one vertical antenna. For mobile I have an ATAS for the Yaesu FT-891, it works really well."



"QSL: I QSL on the QRZ log and LOTW. If you give me a card you will 100% get one back. NO SASE NEEDED. And if you would like one but you cannot send a card, just email me and I would be happy to send a card to you!"

"POTA: Me and my dad first started POTA in early November 2022 and since then we have done about 50 activations at 20 different parks in the area. We usually use our Yaesu FT-891 and an ATAS antenna on a truck."

"This early summer me and my dad, as well as the family, went down to Mississippi and we operated POTA on a few states we went down through."

"CW: I am currently learning code but while I am learning I am doing 10 WPM K1USN contest and might answer to your POTA answer but nothing else because I am not very strong in receiving. For a key I use CWmorse.us straight key."

"My Activity: I usually am on HF, SSB, SSTV, and FT8. When I am not on HF, I am doing 6m FT8 and SSB or 2m and 70cm simplex or repeaters. Sometimes I am doing C4FM, AM, D-STAR, CW, SSTV and FT4. Using a variety of bands and modes is very fun!"

"Satellites: Me and my dad have been doing a lot of satellite work with our arrow antenna. We have been doing a lot of ISS, SO-50, and AO-91. Last summer, I contacted an Astronaut via the ISS repeater. It was Awesome! I still have the QSL card!"

"Clubs/Groups: You can find me being net control for some of the groups I am in."

"I am system control for the YLSYSTEM Young Hams every Saturday 14.332 at 4:00 PM CDT."

"I also joined Young Amateurs Communications Ham Team (YACHT) after a member I talked to via the ISS repeater encouraged me to join. I sometimes run their nets on ECHOLINK node #954283 at 7:00 PM CDT."

"I also am in my local group, the Rock River Radio Club (RRRC). I run their net on Thursdays at 7:30 PM CDT on a local repeater in Knowles, WI. If you ever happen to be in the area, check in. Afterwards we also have an informal chat using Yaesu System Fusion on the same repeater. The repeater is on 442.975 MHz, + 5 MHz offset and PL Tone 123.0."

"I am also a member of the Long Island CW club, and they give me lessons to learn morse code!"

Thanks, Cameron, for being a great role model for others that enjoy this awesome hobby of ours! You truly are an inspiration to all of us. Keep up the good work my friend! One last thing, Cameron and Peter were featured on the Ham Radio Adventure Guy YouTube channel recently. Check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqRjrNGBHrw&t=1168s>



Cameron (KD9VGV) loves working the repeaters on the ham satellites! Here's a link to a video of him working an astronaut on the ISS:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/v5XHha0-HdE>



POTA at the Arch in St. Louis (Gateway Arch National Park)



Good day everyone,

I want to say to everyone how honored I am that you have elected me not only President but also Ham of the Year. I wasn't expecting that at all! I also want to give a wholehearted "Thank You" to Ryan for a decade and a half of dedication and service to the Rock River Radio Club. It's been extremely appreciated by all and will be hard for me to follow. I intend to do my best as we move into the new year.

Looking ahead to 2024 we have some exciting new things to look forward to. Possible in-person classes to help bring new hams into the area. I am also working behind the scenes to bring various Hams in to show us what they are up to. More on this to come but I am excited!!

Again, I want to say Thank You to everyone in the Rock River Radio Club. This is a great group of Hams, SWL's and associated XYL's and I am proud to be a part of it. I can't wait to see how everything progresses through the new year.

Happy Holidays and God Bless!

73's

Peter Frey KD9UVX

## Rock River Radio Club

12/5/2023

K9CID, Connie DePover

Thank you for all the years of sharing the family values of the RRRC. After 20 plus years I have stepped down from my "unofficial" role of the leader of the unofficial Social Committee. Although it was a lot of work my unofficial co-herts shared in the work. We planned pot lucks, field day picnics and many small duties like sending cards from the club, to club members who needed us.

My thanks to Ryan for letting me work beside him for 15 of those years. FYI

\*for over 18 years the cost of those door prizes and table decorations came from Dave and I only, not the club.

I hope the new President of the club has someone to help him with these projects in a very unofficial committee.

Dave and I want to thank some wonderful friends that helped us along the way. Jerry and Eve Arndt, Dennis and Donna Weigel, Ralph and Barb Hasler and our new members Ray and Sarah Teschke.

Again, thanks for the fun and fellowships. I hoped you enjoyed it as much as I did. It is our wish that All have a great Christmas and a great 2024.

Connie and Dave

THANKS TO DOUG AC9XW FOR SHARING THIS ARTICLE FROM QRPER.COM

# N2YCH'S TOP BAND POTA ACTIVATION FIELD REPORT

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 [THOMAS WITHERSPOON](#) 9 COMMENTS

Many thanks to [Conrad \(N2YCH\)](#) who shares the following field report:

## Top Band POTA Activation Field Report

By: Conrad Trautmann (N2YCH)

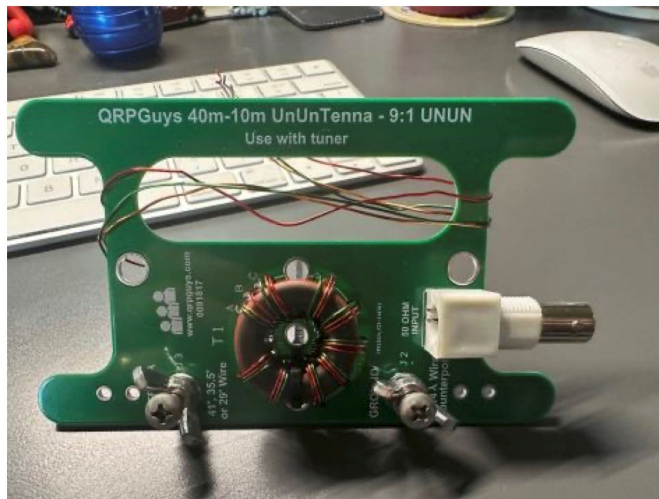
November 15, 2023

In February 2023, Brian, K3ES, [wrote](#) here on QRPer.com about designing and building his own QRP portable random wire antenna he called the VK160 to work on 160 meters to make parks on the air contacts. This was in order to achieve his goal of getting the James F. LaPorta N1CC award where activating on 10 bands at 10 parks is needed. It's not as easy as it sounds. As an avid parks on the air activator myself wanting to try activating on 160 meters, I built my own antenna based on Brian's design and used it to get my first contacts ever at a park on the "Top Band."

## The Antenna

Brian used a 9:1 unun that he built himself in his design. Rather than build my own from scratch, I took a short cut and bought a [QRPGuys](#) 40m-10m UnUnTenna to use as the starting point for my VK160. Even though it says 40m-10m, it works on 160 meters, as you'll see.

With shipping, it cost \$36.00. It comes with all of the parts you need to assemble the antenna except for the wire. The main thing I liked about the QRPGuys design was that the circuit board also doubles as a wire winder, so it's all self-contained.



I sourced the wire from [Davis RF](#) and ordered 200' of "POLY STEALTH - 26 AWG, 19 0.22000 44.00 STRAND COPPER CLAD STEEL, BLACK PE JACKET." It cost \$50 including shipping. The polyethylene insulation prevents the wire from knotting up. I measured out 144' for the radiator based on Brian's design and used the remaining wire as the counterpoise.





#### The completed antenna

I did a back yard test once it was all assembled and it worked great. For \$86, I had created my own VK160. I encourage you to read Brian's detailed design/build report [here](#).

## The POTA Activation – November 14, 2023

Now that I had completed building and testing the antenna, the next challenge was how to actually put it to use at a park. 160 meters doesn't really come to life until dusk or after dark. In Connecticut, most state parks close at dusk. The park rangers clear the parks to close them at the best time to activate the band. However, there is one park nearby my QTH, the Stuart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, K-0228, that has an annex called the Great Meadows Unit in Stratford with a nice parking lot that is not gated and has no posted hours. I arrived and set up at sunset, around 4:30 pm ET and operated from 5 pm until 6 pm. It gets dark here early in the Northeast US in November.

Another challenge is how to manage and string up 144' of wire. Brian suggested an inverted V over a tree branch in his write up. There were no trees nearby, so instead I used a [Spiderbeam](#) fiberglass



pole secured to my Jeep to get the feed point up in the air about 25 feet. I used RG58 cable from the feed point to the radio.

Spiderbeam fiberglass pole supporting VK160

Finally, I used one of my \$3.00 [Home Depot](#) electric fence posts to secure the far end to keep it tight and up in the air and set up the antenna as a sloper. I laid out the counterpoise on the ground under the sloping wire.

By the time I had all of this set up, it was getting dark. I connected my Elecraft KX3 to the other end of the RG58 cable and to my surprise and delight, I was already receiving stations.

My KX3 has a built-in ATU and one tap of that ATU button and it tuned to 1.0:1. I started the activation right at 5 pm local time and in about 15 minutes, I had six QSO's on 160 meters.

The PSK Reporter map showed me being received by stations on the dark side of the gray line in the Northeast. It was pretty much what I expected for QRP power on the low frequency. Then, the next ten minutes things were quiet. It appeared I had gotten everyone who could hear me.

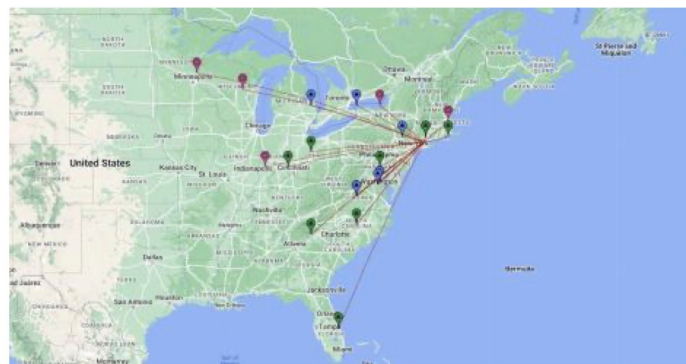
Since this is a random wire antenna, it should work on all bands so I decided to test it on 80 meters. Again, the KX3 tuned right up and I got six more QSO's. I was surprised to see Del, N2NWK from Washington, DC pop up on JT Alert. I have a an alert set for stations calling CQ POTA. Del was also at a park. I called and he answered and we ended up with a park to park. Anyone who knows Del knows that when you hunt him, he's usually activating at a two-fer, at least. When I checked my hunter log afterwards, I saw four parks listed from him (a four-fer?).

At this point in the activation, I had gotten the ten QSO's that I needed to call the park activated. I thought, let me try the VK160 on 60 meters. I re-tuned the KX3 and got five more fast QSO's. The antenna worked great.

Before I packed up, I decided that I really wanted at least ten contacts on 160 meters, which was my original goal. I went back to 160 meters, now close to an hour later than when I began the activation, and easily added five more new QSO's to the log. Maybe propagation had changed the later/darker it got or some new hams were on the band who weren't on earlier, but I was satisfied to have gotten more than 10 on the top band.

## The Results

Here's how I did. Green pins are QSO's on 160 meters, blue pins are 80 meters and the pink ones are 60 meters.



## Equipment List

- ❑ [Mindshift 18L Camera Bag](#) Backpack for radio, cables, battery and computer
- ❑ [Elecraft KX3](#) with CIV and audio cables
- ❑ [Bioenno 1x 12V, 9Ah LFP Battery \(PVC, BLF-1209A\)](#)
- ❑ Samsung Galaxy Book Flex2 Alpha 2 in 1 Laptop with Outdoor mode
- ❑ Sabrent USB external sound card adapter
- ❑ [VK160](#) Random Wire Antenna
- ❑ [Buddipole 15' RF coax and choke balun](#)
- ❑ [Spiderbeam](#) 10m Mini Fiberglass Pole
- ❑ [Home Depot](#) 3' electric fence post

## Conclusion

The “Top Band” activation was a success! The VK160 worked flawlessly, thank you Brian, K3ES for posting your design and providing the inspiration to activate on 160 meters.

My POTA “My Stats” page now shows 11 digital QSOs on 160 meters that I didn’t have before. I love conquering new challenges and given the challenge of going mobile with an antenna that will actually work and tune up on that low of a frequency at a park that won’t make you leave at sunset, well... that was quite an accomplishment!

Thank you to the 22 hunters (11 on 160 meters) who helped make it a success, including my friend Del, N2NWK in Washington, DC.



Conrad, N2YCH and Del, N2NWK



# A DOUBLE FUN DAY! FIRST ACTIVATION OF A NEW POTA PARK AND LEN (KB9GDY'S) FIRST POTA ACTIVATION

By Brad KA9JDE



The day before Thanksgiving I decided it was a perfect day for a Parks On The Air (POTA) activation. Well, except for the fact that it was the middle of deer hunting season! I couldn't find any orange clothing, but I figured red would keep me safe.

I found a new POTA park that had never been activated near Poynette, K-10651 Hinkson Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area. As I was driving, I started thinking that Randolph wasn't far out of my way. I gave Len KB9GDY a call to see if he wanted to ride along. Sure enough, he was available. So off we went. Activating a POTA park can be quite the rush, especially one that has never been activated before. One ham I worked said this activation gave him his 2001st park hunted! It is a way hams can experience the thrill of being a rare DX station with a huge pileup! Handling a pileup can greatly improve a ham's operating skills (we have several experts in the RRRC including Peter KD9UVX, Cameron KD9VGV, Doug AC9XW, Ryan KB9OWD, and others). I operated SSB on 20 meters and Len operated FT-4 on 20 meters. We had a blast!



# HOLIDAY PARTY 2023











**SAVED THE BEST PART FOR LAST**





# AA7HW<sup>VE</sup>Team

## Yes, you CAN take your License Exam Online using Zoom

from the comfort of your own home or office

Our team of Volunteer Examiners has administered nearly 2000 friendly, efficient online amateur radio license exams since May 2020

- We offer online exams most weekdays.
- We can often schedule exams at other times if our existing schedule does not meet your needs.
- New license or upgrades.
- Take multiple exams for the same low price.
- Friendly and efficient.
- You can generally have your license two days after passing your exam.
- Our Portland-based team is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



<https://www.aa7hw.org>

Herb Weiner, AA7HW  
herbw@wiskit.com  
(503) 771-1400

Local contact:  
Brad Gehrt, KA9JDE  
W5YI Volunteer Examiner  
ka9jde@gmail.com  
(920) 210-1620

## **Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club's In-person Amateur Exam Session Dates for 2024**

The Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club will be holding exam sessions at MPTC in Room O-122 on Saturday, February 17, 2024, Saturday, April 13, 2024, Saturday, October 12, 2024 and Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 9:00 AM until Noon. You will need to bring a photo ID and an FRN to the exam session to take an exam. The cost of the exam is \$15.

If you have any questions, please contact Doug Schultz at 920-922-3088 or via email at: [schultz74@charter.net](mailto:schultz74@charter.net). They do allow walk-ins the day of the exam but reservations are always very helpful in planning.



## **RRRC Weekly Nets**

**Monday A.R.E.S. Net 7:30 PM**

**RRRC 2-Meter Repeater 146.64 MHz**

**Net Control Stations**

**December 4, 2023 Gary - KA9BAE**

**December 11, 2023 Jeff - KB9UNY**

**December 18, 2023 Keith - WJ9L**

**December 25, 2023 Ted - W9LUQ**

**Repeater Backup 147.585 MHz Simplex**

**160-Meter HF Net Wednesday 7:00 PM**

**1.908 MHz Lower Side Band  
(1.920 MHz backup frequency)**

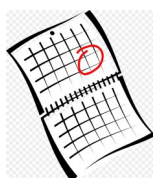
**70-Centimeter Net RRRC Knowles Repeater 442.975**

**Thursdays at 7:30 PM**

**75-Meter HF Net Saturday 10:00 AM  
7.278 MHz Lower Side Band**

**Calendar 2024**

**FIELD DAY JUNE 28-30**



## **RRRC Repeaters**

**2-Meter Located in Juneau, WI**

**146.640 MHz Output**

**146.040 MHz Input**

**(Duplex, Standard Negative Offset)**

**123.0 Hz PL Tone**

**70-Centimeter Located in Knowles, WI**

**442.975 MHz Output**

**447.975 MHz Input**

**(Duplex, Standard Positive Offset)**

**123.0 Hz PL Tone**

**Standard FM and**

**Yaesu System Fusion (C4FM) Capable**

## **Rock River Radio Club Mailing Addresses**

**Club Dues / Bills / Club Business**

**R.R.R.C.**

**P.O. Box 26**

**Juneau, WI 53039-0026**

**Newsletter Related Items:**

**Raymond Teschke**

**617 Mohawk Cir.**

**Horicon, WI 53032**

**rkteschke@att.net**

**Website: [www.rrrc.net](http://www.rrrc.net)**

**Webmaster: Ray (Lucky) Lasanske K9LUK**

**[k9luk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k9luk@sbcglobal.net)**

**Annual Membership Dues**  
**Rock River Radio Club of Wisconsin**  
**PO Box 26, Juneau WI 53039-0026**



Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Call(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL:        YES        NO

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

Description	\$ Each	Quantity	Total
RRRC 2024 Membership - Family	\$25.00		
RRRC 2024 Membership - Individual Regular	\$20.00		
RRRC 2024 Membership - Individual Associate	\$10.00		
RRRC Badge	\$10.00		
A.R.E.S. Communication Trailer Fund Contribution			
GRAND TOTAL:			

Send to:                      Dave DePover  
                                    Attn: RRRC treasurer  
                                    W7657 Stone Rd.  
                                    Juneau, WI 53039