



RRRC NEWS

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB



Volume 44 Number 11

www.rrrc.net

NOVEMBER 2023

NOVEMBER 2023 RRRC

Meeting Minutes



The monthly meeting of the Rock River Radio Club was held on **November 7, 2023**, using Zoom meetings. by President Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD. The meeting and called it to order at **7:19** pm CST

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

Motion to approve by: Peter Frey, KD9UVX

Second by: Cameron Frey, KD9GV

Motion Carried

TREASURER REPORT Dave DePover K9MKP

Motion to approve by: Ralph Hasler, N9WBL

Second by: Ray Teschke, KD9QLE

Motion Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARES: Dale Marks, WB9ADB

Several members attended a ARES drill at the Waupun Hospital

TRAILER: Len Buchda, KB9GDY

Nothing to report.

REPEATER: Dale Marks, WB9ADB

Nothing to report.

FIELD DAYS: Dale Marks, WB9ADB

OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Holiday Party– December 3rd,

Social @ 1pm, Meal @ 1:30pm

Cost \$23.00 Per person, Buffet style

Elections of Officers

13 members were in attendance for the 2024 election of officers

2023 Election Committee

Brad Gehrt, KA9JDE, Len Buchda, KB9GDY,

Peter Frey, KD9UVX

Elected Officers

President: Peter Frey, KD9UVX

Nominated by: Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD

Motion to approve/close: Brad Gehrt, KA9JDE

Motion carried

Vice President: .Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD

Nominated by: Brad Gehrt, KA9JDE

Motion to approve/close: Mike DeJager, KB9LXP

Second by: David DePover, K9MKP

Motion carried

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

Secretary: Ray Teschke, KD9QLE
Nominated by: Nomination Committee
Motion to approve/close: David DePover
Second by: Ralph Hasler, N9WBL
Motion carried

Treasurer: David DePover, K9MKP
Nominated by: Nominating Committee
Motion to approve/close: Cameron Frey, KD9VGV
Second by: Ralph Hasler, N9WBL
Motion carried

President appointments
Historian: Gary Pedersen , KA9BAE
Emergency Coordinators: Dale Marks, WB9ADB,
Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD
Repeater: Dale Marks, WB9ADB, David DePover,
K9MKP, Keith Lodahl, WJ9L, Ray Teschke,
KD9QLE
Web Master: Lucky Lasanske, K9LUK

Ham Of The Year Award
12 Members vote on the Ham Of The Year Award .
Award to be presented at the Holiday Party.
Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD to purchase plaque

MOTION TO ADJOURNED

President Ryan Klavekoske KB9OWD, heard no further
business and requested the meeting be adjourned.
Motion to adjourn by: Ray Teschke, KD9QLE
Second by: Brad Gehrt, KA9JDE
Motion Carried

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:04 pm

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

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RRRC WILL
BE HELD ONLINE TUESDAY, **DECEMBER 5TH** 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, **DECEMBER 9th**, at the Village
Garden Restaurant in Juneau. All are welcome,
so join us at around 8:00 AM for a pleasant in-
formal gathering.

RRRC **NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Ray Teschke, KD9QLE, Horicon
Ryan Klavekoske ,KB9OWD, Beaver Dam
Len Buchda, KB9GDY, Randolph
Mike Dejager, KB9LXP, Randolph
Dennis Weigel, KC9ICA ,Horicon
Dale Marks, WB9ADB, Burnett
Brad Gehrt, KA9JDE, Rush Lake
David DePover, K9MKP, Juneau
Gary Pedersen, KA9BAE , Juneau
Cameron Frey, KD9VGV, Beaver Dam
Peter Frey, KD9UVX, Beaver Dam
Ralph Hasler, N9WBL ,Oconomowoc
Ted Neuburg, W9LUQ, Waupun

HOLIDAY PARTY ELVES HARD AT WORK



UPCOMING UPGRADE TO THE RRRC KNOWLES REPEATER

By Brad KA9JDE



As previously mentioned, our RRRC 440 Repeater in Knowles is made possible by the generosity of Rod Fritz WB9KMO and Dale Marks WB9ADB. Rod donated the Yaesu C4FM Repeater and Dale found us duplexers to make it all possible.

Many of you have heard me (KA9JDE/7) access the RRRC 440 Net on Thursday evenings remotely from Arizona using Wires-X via HRI Direct mode. Recently some of you have heard Rod WB9MKO access our 440 Net remotely via a Wires-X repeater in Mesa, Arizona. How cool is that?!!!

In a joint effort between Rod WB9KMO, Dale WB9ADB, Kevin KC9YPK and myself, we are hoping to upgrade the Wires-X remote access to the RRRC Knowles Repeater. The initial goal is to set up a WIRES-X node in Mayville (at no cost to the RRRC) to allow remote access to the Knowles Repeater via other Wires-X repeaters and have it available 24/7. So, if you are out of our repeater's range, and have access to a Wires-X repeater with your Yaesu C4FM rig or HT, you will be able to remotely access the RRRC Knowles Repeater.

Wires-X, developed by Yaesu, stands for Wide-coverage Internet Repeater Enhancement System. What the heck does that mean??? More to come on that, so stay tuned...

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SMALLER, EFFECTIVE 2m/440 ANTENNA FOR YOUR VEHICLE? (WITH NO HOLES TO DRILL) – READ ON!

By Brad KA9JDE



You might want to consider one of the COMPACTenna models available from HRO, DX Engineering and other vendors.



The ham version antenna comes in several variations including 2m/220/440 (7 ½”), 2m/440 (7 ½”), 2m/440 (9” with higher gain) and a 220 only (9” with higher gain).

There is also a scanner model (receive only) and even a Land Mobile Radio model for Government, Business, Marine and GMRS. It transmits and receives on 136-174, 378-512 and 750-960 MHz, both digital and analog.

All models can easily be converted to base station or repeater use.

Each COMACTenna is precisely tuned and tested before shipment. They are made in the USA.

According to their website “Generally, best performance of a mobile antenna is achieved with location at the top of the vehicle. Long antennas can be unsightly and often do not allow travel into garages, beneath underpasses, and standard technology short antennas have significantly decreased performance and bandwidth. The short yet powerful COMPACTenna is designed for best results (SWR, Performance) at an upper corner of a vehicle.”

I have both the 2m/440 model (7 ½” on a Comet NMO 5” mag mount, with a maximum power of 85 watts VHF and 50 watts UHF) and the 2m/440+ model (9” on a Comet NMO 5” mag mount, with a maximum power of 100 watts VHF and 75 watts UHF).

FYI, the 2m/440+ model was recently reviewed in the August 2022 issue of QST magazine. In the article, KE8AQW said the bottom line was “At only 9 inches tall, the COMPACTenna is an ideal low-profile, dual-band antenna for cars that need low clearances or for stealth station installation without compromising on performance”. I cannot agree more. My experience so far has been better than expected.

I was skeptical at first. In the ham radio world, smaller is not normally a good thing, but the COMPACTenna works well on both my Toyota 4Runner in Arizona and my Toyota FJ Cruiser in Wisconsin. Dr. Jack Nilsson (N8NDL) designed his patented antenna especially for use in difficult non line of sight locations. I really like that I can easily pull into my garage without having to remove the antenna. And no drilling holes in my vehicles with the forementioned mag mount. I am impressed with the performance.

There is plenty of information to read on compactenna.com. Also, plenty of reviews on YouTube.

Base Station



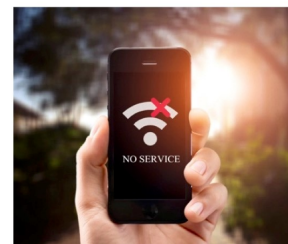


IS IT POSSIBLE TO SELF-SPOT YOURSELF WHEN YOU ARE OFF-GRID (NO INTERNET)?

Info from Dale WB9ADB and Brad KA9JDE



It is a common practice these days for Parks On The Air and Summits On The Air “activators” to self-spot themselves via the Internet when they are at a site. This is so “hunters”, who are looking to work particular POTA parks or SOTA summits, can see when you're on the air, what frequency and mode you are using. Unfortunately, many POTA and SOTA sites do not have Internet or cell phone coverage. Did you ever wonder if it's possible to self-spot yourself when you're in that situation?



One option is to set up an alert to notify “hunters” that you will be activating at a certain time on a certain date before you set out to activate. This can be done on the POTA or SOTA websites. I personally prefer to send out a self-spot when I am ready to go on the air from the site. Both are acceptable.

Recently, Dale WB9ADB, sent me a link from Zero Retries by Steve Stroh N8GNJ. One of the topics covered answers the question this article addresses. Steve's “Pseudostaffer” Jeff Davis KE9V alerted him to this awesome app. Here is a link to Steve's article: https://open.substack.com/pub/zeroretries/p/zero-retries-0124?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=email.

The answer is, yes, you can post a self-spot via HF! There is a free app available for both iPhones and Android phones. The app is called *SOTAMĀT* by Brian Mathews AB6D.

According to N8GNJ:

“SOTAMĀT is an Android / IOS app that generates FT8 audio that you can use an audio cable... or just acoustically couple... from the phone's speaker → radio's microphone to briefly transmit SOTAMĀT data. Thus, instead of Internet, SOTAMĀT uses Amateur Radio to do a self-spot.”

“The SOTAmāt server listens to PSKReporter for reception reports of your (preregistered) callsign with a special SOTAmāt suffix (specific to your personal SOTAmāt configuration). This callsign suffix encodes a command for SOTAmāt to execute (such as a self-spot for a particular summit-ID or park-ID, or to send an eMail message).”

“SOTAMĀT is Technological Innovation in Amateur Radio (it's particularly elegant how it leverages [PSKReporter](#)), Zero Retries Interesting, and again, quite an elegant hack. Kudos to SOTAMĀT creator Brian Mathews AB6D.”

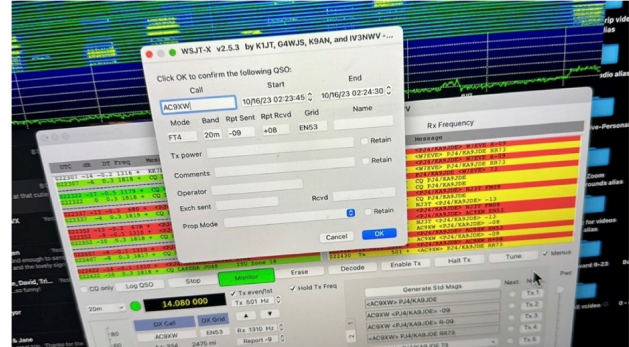
Feel free to send your Parks On The Air and Summits On The Air questions to Brad KA9JDE at ka9jde@gmail.com.

PJ4/KA9JDE HAM RADIO IN BONAIRE (50 miles from South America)

I had the opportunity to do ham radio in Bonaire in October. Due to scuba gear weight, ham radio gear was limited to FT8 / FT4 using a digital only QRP Labs QDX 4 watt rig with a homebrew 20m dipole. I worked AC9XW, KB9OWD, and my Phoenix friends W7JET and W7EVE!



Operating from the beach with my 20m homebrew dipole and QDX rig



Confirmation of QSO with Doug AC9XW in Ripon (+08 dB signal!!)



Josh and Diane (my XYL) after a night dive where I was operating



Josh (my good friend) and myself on the beach after successful operation



Brad's drone shot of the southern end of Bonaire and the salt flats



Brad's drone shot of Salt Pier and the "salt pyramids" of Bonaire



A beautiful Caribbean Reef Octopus



Caribbean Reef Squid's love scuba divers



AA7HW^{VE}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
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(503) 771-1400

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

NEW IN-PERSON TESTING DATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2023

Looking for in-person testing to get your ham license or upgrade? Read on from Doug Schultz (N9EZF) of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club: I have scheduled four exams for 2023 for the following dates February 18, 2023, April 15, 2023, October 21, 2023 and December 9, 2023 in room 0-122 at MPTC. Everyone taking amateur exams is required to get a FRN from the FCC website to put on their FCC application as well as provide a photo ID. I have a suggestion for people taking the Technician exam to also study for the General exam since if you pass the Tech. exam on the first try you can take the General exam for free. Cost of the exam is \$15. Preregistering is encouraged, but walk-ins are allowed at the exams. To pre-register for any of the exam sessions call Doug Schultz at 920-922-3088 or via email at: schultz74@charter.net



Ham Application Fee (Effective April 19, 2022)

The FCC has announced that effective on April 19, 2022 they will begin assessing the \$35 application fee on new, renewals and vanity callsign applications. Upgrades to amateur licenses will be exempt from the \$35 application fee according to the ARRL-VEC. Administrative updates, such as name changes, mailing or email address changes will be exempt Amateur from the fee. VE's and VE teams will not have to collect the \$35 application fees at exam sessions. They will charge the normal \$15 ARRL-VEC exam fee to applicants. The successful Radio applicants will be required to pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the License CORES FRN registration system. When the FCC receives the examination from the ARRL-VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who will have 10 calendar days from the date of the email to pay the application fee. After the fee is paid the examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. The link will be good for 30 days. Additionally, the FCC stated that applications processed and dismissed will not be entitled to a refund. This includes vanity requests where the applicant does not receive the requested callsign.
Doug Schultz N9EZF

RRRC Weekly Nets

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

RRRC 2-Meter Repeater 146.64 MHz

Net Control Stations

November 20, 2023 Ted - W9LUQ
November 27, 2023 Ryan - KB9OWD
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

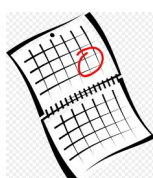
75-Meter HF Net Saturday 10:00 AM

7.278 MHz Lower Side Band

Alternate Frequency 3.947 MHz

Calendar 2023

**Holiday Party—December 3RD, Social 1pm,
Meal 1:30pm Cost \$23**



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

Webmaster: Ray (Lucky) Lasanske K9LUK

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 2023 Membership - Family	\$25.00		
RRRC 2023 Membership - Individual Regular	\$20.00		
RRRC 2023 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