



March - 2005

Officers

Operating the 146.91- repeater under the call sign WI9MRC. For best access use 127.3 PL. Mailing address: PO Box 2123 Milwaukee, WI 53201	President Bob Albert Vice Pres Mark Zentner Secretary Mike Jones Treasurer Tom Liebe Acivtes Mgr Matt Moog	AB9FB KB9VJQ K9MDJ WI9TOM KC9COY	ab9fb@yahoo.com markkb9vjvq@prodigy.net k9mdj@arrl.net wi9tom@arrl.net kc9coy@themoog.com
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Meeting Notice...

March 19 (Sat) 6:00pm - Mayfair Mall Room G110 (under mall)

2005 Club Calendar...

May 21 (Sat) 6:00pm, Mayfair Mall

July 30 (Sat) 6:00pm, Mayfair Mall

August 16 (Tues) 6:00p Meeting, Oak Creek Location

October 24 (Mon) 6:00p Meeting, Oak Creek Location

November 18 (Fri) 6:00p Meeting, Oak Creek Location

Board Meetings: Call a board member for date, time and location of the meeting.

Oak Creek Location

Wauwatosa Savings (Basement)
6560 S. 27th Street, Oak Creek, WI

Mayfair Location *(New)*

Room G110 (under mall)

From Your President

First of all I would like thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to be your club president again in 2005. I appreciate your confidence in re-electing me and hope that I can meet your expectations. I'll also remind you that if I can be of any service to you with your problems or concerns pertaining to the Milwaukee Repeater Club, feel free to contact me on the air, via e-mail at

ab9fb@yahoo.com, or by phone at 414-526-7011.

I would like to thank everyone who shared the board with me last year. I enjoyed working with all of you. I also want to congratulate the other board members elected to the 2005 board. I'm looking forward to a great year working with you.

Just a reminder of a few business items. Don't forget your discount when purchasing things at Batteries Plus. Tell them you're an MRC member and they will discount your purchase based on what it is you purchase. If they have trouble finding us in their system, give them my phone number listed above. Some stores have been known to have this problem and the phone number usually takes care of it. Most stores should ask for proof of MRC affiliation. All paid members can get their membership cards from our secretary, Mike, K9MDJ. As a reminder, pursuant to FCC rules we ask that the Batteries Plus discount not be discussed on the air.

Also, don't forget about the club's KB9VMA memorial library. We currently have copies of all license study manual (long and short forms), ARRL Handbook (book and CD versions), ARRL Antenna book (book and CD version), and code practice CDs. To check out any of this material, please contact our club librarian, Steve, KC9AYN. He has all of the material and can get it checked out for you.

I've said it before in other newsletter articles, but I'll say it again: the name of the game is participation. The club can be whatever you would like it to be. The board is here to serve you, but can't take the club in the direction you would like to see it go without your help. I encourage you to attend as many club meetings as you can and bring your ideas and suggestions.

Expect to hear from me via e-mail or by phone shortly. I have set a goal for myself for this year to get meeting attendance up as much as possible. I'd like to hear your ideas of why you may not be attending meetings or what we could do to get you there. If you haven't attended a meeting for a while you might be surprised if you attend. I've tried to make them as short, but as informative, as possible.

Again thanks for you confidence and I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Bob, AB9FB
2005 President

News From The Vice-President

Recently, on a repair excursion to the main repeater site, I had the opportunity to get involved in the diagnosis and repair of the battery back-up control unit. This unit monitors AC power to the repeater, places the repeater power amp in bypass mode when the repeater is operating in battery back-up, and provides a logic level input to the S-COM 7K controller. Upon our arrival, this battery back-up unit was showing no signs of life. The bi-polar LED on the front panel usually indicates battery use with red and AC service with green. When we arrived, the LED wasn't lit at all. In addition, the repeater's courtesy beep indicated we were in back-up mode, however, it was obvious that the main site had AC power. The power-in binding post on the rear of the unit was checked for voltage and indeed there was voltage present. The next step was to carefully disconnect all the wiring and remove the unit from the repeater. The battery control unit can be bench tested and serviced at Main Site because we had access to 12v

Committees

ARES Net Coord	Jeananne	N9VSV
Computer Net	Gary	N9UUR
Control Operators	Gary	N9UUR
Emer Operations & Training	Gary	N9MGJ
Fun Net	Warren	K9IZV
Historian	Warren	K9IZV
Librarian	Steve	KC9AYN
Membership Coord	Kate	KA9MWT
Net Announcements Coord	Deb	KB9ISE

Newsletter	Heidi N9TUY & Bob AA9JW
Public Service	Kate KA9MWT
Station Trustee	Warren Schall K9IZV
Swapfest	Bob AB9FB & Joe N9UX
Swap Net	Leroy WD9HOT
Technical	Mike Borchardt N9NPB
Weather	Skip WD9HAS
Co-Webmaster	Gary N9UUR
Co-Webmaster	Richard K9RWE

DC and also 120v AC, the two inputs that the battery control unit uses to determine what will power the repeater. With test power applied to the circuit board, we were able to track the DC path across the circuit board and establish the last component on the board that had DC voltage and the first component which did not. The interruption in current flow was due to an open trace on the PC board and was easily fixed by soldering down a small piece of jumper wire and tinning it to the board across the open trace. This brought life back to our battery control unit and enabled the repeater's power amp to be switched back into the RF path of the repeater. I really enjoyed the opportunity to work on the repeater and feel that if that's the worst breakdown we have all year, then it's a pretty reliable system. I'm not saying that finding the problem was easy by any means; the process did have its share of perils. If you recall, the snow was very deep on the weekend of the breakdown, and I did have to dig my S10 out of the end of the driveway at Main Site. (Yeah, that Y-turn wasn't such a great idea; even a 4-wheel drive vehicle can't plow snow without a plow!) The opportunity to work on the repeater proves a learning experience in more ways than one. The lesson: Often tasks have unexpected labors. Repeaters need to be maintained, as do repeater clubs.

Looking forward to the best year ever because everyone will make it so,

Mark Zentner – KB9VJQ
Vice President

Severe Weather Nets

Beginning this year our severe weather ('Skywarn') nets will use the Sullivan National Weather service requested "distance & direction" format when describing our location. To do this, we each need to determine our distance and direction from a weather service reference point. All other aspects of our weather reporting procedures are still the same two step process.

For new comers: (1) Transmit your call sign + weather event keyword to initiate a report. Once the net control acknowledges you, then (2) Transmit your TLCS Info. (TIME of your observation, LOCATION of the weather event, CONDITION [measured/estimated descriptors], and SOURCE of the report (your call sign).

These weather service reference points correspond to "cross hairs" on The NWS radarscope, and are usually major intersections, the center of the city, or even the city hall. Keep in mind the NWS meteorologist must monitor 360 cities within 20 southeast Wisconsin counties, and they are not familiar with every individual neighborhood and intersection as we know them. If I report 5 inch hail at my location of 9th & Miller Street in Hales Corners, most of them have no clue where that exact location is.

However, by looking up the NWS reference points and using a local street map, I have determined that my home location is 1.2 miles south of their Hales Corners reference point. (Distance needs to be in tenths of a mile and direction based on compass points, north, north-northeast, etc.)

In the future when I call in a report, my home (or office) location info will be: "1.2 miles south of Hales Corners, Milwaukee Co."

By using this 'radial' location format, critical time is saved in passing radio traffic. For the meteorologist this now means only a few point-and-click mouse movements on their radar screen to plot my exact location. No more wasting time converting from paper maps to radar screen.

So, to summarize what's needed: (A) Find the nearest NWS reference point from your home and office location on the www.mrc91.org website, (B) Calculate your distance and direction from that reference point using a local street map, (C) Post the reporting format/criteria and location info by your computer, phone, or radio. Contact me if you have trouble with your location data. (svoros@execpc.com 414-475-6200)

For mobile stations, you will need to increase your location awareness when making a report since the net control or relay will have to assist to determine the nearest NWS reference point.

It is interesting to note that an Ohio ham radio group is also using the same format that we started in Wisconsin. At our March club meeting we will go over this process and also receive storm spotter training from Rusty Kapela of the Sullivan NWS. See you then.

Skip Voros WD9HAS

From the Activities Manager

Greetings to all! I would like to start by thanking all who supported me in reelection this year and I look forward to another year of great times on the MRC board!

We had a great year last year with many fun times, but the highlight for me was Field Day. Gary (N9MGJ) was an incredible help in making Field Day what it was last year and I'm hoping that I can count on his support again this year (while he hasn't given me an answer yet he has been asked) to make Field Day an even greater event than last year. I've already secured a number of pieces of key equipment and am about to begin the selection process for a Field Day Site. If you have a great idea for a location to hold Field Day (typically in a public park etc.) please email me at KC9COY@themoog.com and I'll add it to the list of sites to consider. Please include which area (such as picnic area) you think would be best and not just a park name. Also if you are willing to volunteer equipment (radios, generators, ask for a list!) please let me know that as well.

Thank you again to those who supported me and continue to do so. I look forward to another productive and exciting year!

73's KC9COY – Matt
MRC Activities Manager

MRC Meeting Minutes Jan 22, 2005

Location: Wauwatosa State Bank, Oak Creek, WI

Bob (AB9FB) called the meeting to order at 6:26pm.

Al (N9RXD) and Mark (KB9VJQ) seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting as published in the newsletter. Motion carries unopposed.

Introduction of attendees.

Bob (AB9FB) read the list of hams wishing to become members of the club; Sydney KC9FZL, Mark KC9GSS, Naomi KC9GST, Randall KC9BZV, Phillip W9PAH, Herbert KC9GJB, Shayne KB9OOV, Wayne KA9KHZ, Karen N9NGG, Robert AA9VO, Sheridan KC9AIW. Dean (KB7QDI) made a motion to accept the members, Jeananne (N9VSV) seconded the motion. Motion carries unopposed.

Bob (AB9FB) talked about the application for 501(c)3 status. The IRS has the application, but had us listed as the Milwaukee *Repair* Club. The name has been corrected, but the IRS says it will take 6-8 months (longer than was expected). Bob (AB9FB) and Brian (K5GBW) will review the application status.

Joe (N9UX) brought up the last purchase of radios in July, all funds were taken from the Expendable Funds, but in January, one-half the purchase price was taken from the Capital Improvement Fund. Joe (N9UX) made a motion to use \$1200 from the Capital Improvement Fund for the purchase of the radios. Gary (N9UUR) seconded. Gary also talked about the use of the Capital Improvement Fund, and Warren (K9IZV) added comments on the fund as well. Maureen (KB9VLJ) talked about the depreciation of assets, and Matt (KC9COY) talked about how businesses purchase capital items. The motion carries unopposed.

Joe (N9UX) read the Treasurer's report in Brian's (K5GBW) absence. Al (N9RXD) made a motion to accept the report, second by Mike (N9NPB). Motion carries unopposed.

Joe (N9UX) read the Budget for 2005 prepared by Brian (K5GBW). The Budget was amended to remove the Field Day Fund, and change the Technical Committee budget to \$2,000, leaving us with a deficit budget. Bob (AB9FB) made a motion to accept the Budget as changed, Gary (N9UUR) seconded. There were comments on it being a bad precedent to run a deficit budget. Motion carries, KB7QDI and KC9COY opposed.

Matt (KC9COY) talked about meeting locations for this year; they will be listed in the next newsletter. We will be back in Mayfair Mall, and the weather meeting will be located in the larger room. The Bank will no longer let us use their room after 6:00p.m. on Saturdays, which is why the meetings were moved to Friday.

Old Business

Mark (KB9VJQ) talked about the awards given out this year. Tom (WI9TOM) received the Friendly One award, and Al (N9RXD) was given the Community Service Award. Al mentioned the Tour de Cure will be held May 22nd this year.

Warren K9IZV talked about the responders group. Warren asked if there were any issues with the group, Mark (KB9VJQ) mentioned he'd like more

spontaneity and said that everyone should be responding. Warren still has slots open and asked for people who might like to respond 2 hours per month.

New Business

Bob (AB9FB) made a motion for the Club to sponsor but not fund a Swapfest, second by Matt (KC9COY). Motion carries unopposed.

Bob (AB9FB) made a motion for the Club to sponsor, but not fund a Field Day event, second by Mike (N9NPB). Motion carries unopposed.

Al (N9RXD) made a motion for the Club to sponsor a Swapfest for 2006, Joe (N9UX) seconded. Motion carries unopposed.

Milan (N9IDX) was unintentionally left off the vote-in list. Gary (N9UUR) made a motion to accept him as a new member, second by Deb (KB9ISE). Motion carries unopposed.

Club officer elections were held.

Maureen (KB9VLJ) made a motion to adjourn at 8:26p.m. second by Matt (KC9COY). Motion carries unopposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Schwarz, N9UX

Board of Directors Meeting January 14th 2005 MRC

Meeting called to order @ 7:25 on January 14th 2005

Attendees:

Bob (AB9FB), Dean (KB7QDI), Matt (KC9COY), Warren (K9IZV)

President:

Talked about 501c3. IRS has received it but has not reviewed it yet and apparently the IRS transposed a typo into it calling us the "Milwaukee *Repair* Club".

As of 2 days ago, they are estimating 4-6 months to have someone review it.

N9WBM who is the Election Chairperson was contacted and he has agreed to chair the election again this year.

It was brought to the Board's attention that Ken, KB9OBZ, made or 2nd some motions, and he is not a paid member.

Vice president:

No change to Echolink or Audio Streaming.

Activities Manager:

Has been working on a plan for what Activities Manager does.

Finalized meeting dates for next year.

Warren:

Discussed the First Responders Group.

Discussed a joint picnic between the 9.1 and 5.13. It was suggested by KB7QDI, Dean, that next year's Board get together with next years 5.13 Board. Discussed a mutual pact between 9.1 and 5.13 to work together to resolve jamming. It was suggested that next year's Board for the .91 talk with the Board of the 5.13 next year after the .91 makes a policy on jamming.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:55

Respectfully Submitted
Matthew M. Moog, KC9COY

Newsletter...

The MRC Newsletter is generally published 6 times per year (January, March, May, July, September, and October). The Newsletter deadline is 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. Send articles, reports, comments, and suggestions to Bob AA9JW or Heidi N9TUY Manak. Email aa9jw@amsat.org, Fax 208 247-9055 or ☎ 262 544-6151.

The Milwaukee Repeater Club Inc. ; P.O. Box 2123, Milwaukee, WI 53201
Membership / Renewal Application

Call sign _____ Name _____ Expiration _____
Date _____

Name used on air _____ Class of License _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work optional) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth date (optional) _____ ARRL Member? yes no

E-mail: _____

Dues (New & Renewal): \$ 20.00

Capital Improvement Fund: \$ _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

I hereby agree to abide by the Constitution, By-laws and rules of the Milwaukee Repeater Club.

Signed: _____

The MRC membership will vote on your admission to the Club at the next meeting after your application is received. PLEASE NOTE! If there is ANY of your personal information that you DO NOT wish to be published into the Club Roster, note this on this form. Also, list the names, calls and other pertinent information on any family members living at the same address who are Hams and desire to become MRC members. Thank You!