



July - 2006

Officers

Operating the 146.91- repeater under the callsign W19MRC. For best access use 127.3 PL. Mailing address: PO Box 2123 Milwaukee, WI 53201	President Bob Albert Vice Pres Dean Hoover Secretary Mike Jones Treasurer Tom Moog Activts Mgr Matt Moog	AB9FB KB7QDI K9MDJ KC9DPR KC9COY	ab9fb@yahoo.com kb7qdi@yahoo.com k9mdj@arrl.net kc9dpr@themoog.com kc9coy@themoog.com
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contacts, visits, etc. Although we don't have the final count yet, we did make over 250 voice contacts, 210 CW and 65 digital contacts. And that is not even counting our GOTA station yet. SCORE FROM ONE TO TEN: EIGHT

2. LOCATION. Whitnall Park toboggan run area. Beautiful sight with ample parking, tent/antenna space, and a view to the east that will knock your socks off. SCORE: PERFECT TEN

3. PARTICIPATION. How many people came to the Field Day event. Using past events as a baseline, we ranked higher than last year, but lower than our first Field Day event 6 years ago. At press time the total stands at 164 different people. And I had the pleasure of saying HI and shaking hands with many of them. SCORE: NINE

4. FOOD. John KC9EAS brought in hamburgers, hot dogs, and baked beans for Saturday night, as well as pancake mix for Sunday morning. My wife, Kathy KE4LBY, brought in pulled BBQ pork Saturday night. Napoleon N0XXL and Janet KB9ZAG grilled the hamburgers Saturday night, as well as flipped the pancakes, and had sausages for Sunday morning. Matt KC9COY brought condiments and potato chips for Saturday night. Two things ham operators love to do; talk and eat. SCORE: PERFECT TEN

5. ANTENNA FALLDOWNS: We had one. I know... I know... ideally you want zero falldowns, and the beam antenna did need some work before we could get it back up in the air. However, this has proven a great lesson for us; all you people that can put up large antennas and make really good knots with guy wires... congratulations! You are officially invited to next year's Field Day!!! (so is everybody else, of course!) SCORE: SEVEN

6. PEANUTS AND TWIZZLERS: Pat WW9R, kept the masses happy at the CW tent by keeping plenty of water, peanuts and

Twizzlers available. I noticed that all the peanuts were gone; so were most of the Twizzlers. SCORE: NINE (only because Pat should have brought more peanuts <grin>)

7. GOTA. Every time I looked around, the GOTA station was always manned with at least two people. Special thanks to Warren K9IZV for the use of his callsign, as well as John KC9FMC and John KC9FJX for dedicating their time to bring kids and other non-hams closer to this wonderful hobby. SCORE: PERFECT TEN

8. HONORABLE MENTIONS: We had several; I hope I get them all. First, Mark KC9VJQ brought in a treadmill (yes, a treadmill), made it into a generator, hooked it up to a radio and made 5 HF contacts. Not only did that jump up our total points for the contest, you might notice Mark is looking a bit thinner these days. I wonder if he uses that when he's net control on Sundays?

Ted N9KQQ brought his portable satellite station, and made our very first satellite contact during a Field Day event! Ted also made up some awesome signage to post around the area to direct people to the event.

Richard N6NKO set up his APRS system to transmit local weather data to the Field Day event. Very helpful when we weren't quite sure what to expect Saturday evening.

John KC9FMC used his vast handyman knowledge, and decided to take his trailer and convert it into a portable tower. John literally took a 20-25 foot tower mast, and was able to build a pivot mount to raise/lower the mast. When it was all said and done, he had a multi-band vertical installed on the mast, and it was used exclusively at the GOTA station.

Meeting Notice...

July 22 (Sat) 7:00p Business Meeting and Technical Program on Packet Radio by one or more of the following KB9PRF, N9KXA, KB9PVH at Wheaton Franciscan Health Care (formerly Covenant Health Care) Sr. Jeanne Gengler Meeting Room A & B, 400 West River Woods Parkway, Glendale (Just South of Hampton Ave. off Port Washington Road)

2006 Club Calendar...

September 13 (Wed) 7:00p Oak Creek
October 19 (Thur) 7:00p Oak Creek
November 15 (Thur) 7:00p Oak Creek

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

From the Vice President

I hope everyone enjoyed Field Day... I know I did! Whether you came to make long-distance contacts over the air, or to just sit down and join local contacts from the club around the fire, this year's Field Day had it all.

There are several ways to describe the success of a particular Field Day event. Each person may have their own; I'd like to share with you some of my gauges:

1. POINTS. Points is what the ARRL bases their event on. Points can be for

Committees

ARES Net Coord	Jeananne	N9VSV
Awards	TBA	
Computer Net	Dean	KB7QDI
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	Maureen	KB9VLJ

Newsletter	Heidi N9TUY & Bob AA9JW
Public Service	Kate KA9MWT
Station Trustee	Warren Schall K9IZV
Swapfest	Bob AB9FB & Joe N9UX
Swap Net	Leroy WD9HOT
Technical	Mark KB9VJQ
Weather	Skip WD9HAS
Co-Webmaster	TBA
Co-Webmaster	Richard K9RWE

Very, very cool. We're trying to convince him to use that as a rover for the next VHF contest. Just no bridges... please!

And, lastly, any success to this Field Day wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for Matt KC9COY. The job of organizing an event this size is no small task, but both Matt and I agree when it's all done, the time was well spent.

A final thanks to all that volunteered and visited Field Day this year. You are the reason why we do this, so the more people that attend, the better Field Day becomes.

Until next time,
73 de Dean KB7QDI

A Note From Your Treasurer

I guess we could call this Field Day, part 2. Last month I wrote about my impressions of Field Day. I mentioned that last year was the first time I had been to Field Day. As I'm writing this article I am sitting in the command center of the MRC Field Day site. We just finished lowering the 3-element beam antenna. Try to envision this in your mind. The antenna is a huge 3-element beam antenna. The beams measure maybe 10-12 feet across. It's mounted on a mast which is attached to a rotator. The entire assembly is mounted on top of an extension ladder which is probably about 15 feet when extended! It takes about 10 hams and/or helpers to stand this assembly upright using guy wires and brute strength. Everything was in place last night (Friday). Then sometime during the night the entire assembly fell over. There was some damage to the beam(s) so the crew has been trying to get it fixed and back on line. The first attempt wasn't successful so the antenna was again lowered to try more repairs. As of this writing repairs are still under way. All of our stations are operating with the exception of the one attached to the big beam, but hopefully we'll get it back on line soon. It also looks like we may have to keep an eye on the weather again this year. We made it through last year's severe weather, and I'm sure the very competent members who are out here manning the equipment will keep everything safe again this year. It looks like the MRC is again heading for a successful Field Day.

Tom Moog KC9DPR
kc9dpr@themoog.com

Greetings from a Recuperating Activities Manager!

Field Day was again a colossal success. It would not be possible if it were not for the help of each and every person who attends and helps with Field Day, and I thank each and every one of you for your time and equipment.

Although I agree with Dean's assessment for the most part, there is one thing I disagree with, and that's the Antenna Falldown category. Although it's not good that an antenna fell down, I would have scored this one a Perfect Ten. Why on earth when we had an antenna fall down would I score a perfect ten in this category? Simple! Field Day is all about being prepared and ready for anything and ready when needed. Although the antenna fell over, it proved our ability to be prepared. We were able to REPAIR THE ANTENNA ON-SITE with nothing more than what we already had on site and get it BACK ON THE AIR! That to me shows that Field Day was a success!

I'd would also like to echo Dean's sentiment that after all the hard work it sure feels good to sit back at 1:00p.m. on Saturday and watch everything come together. There's nothing better on Field Day than knowing that all the hard work and time has paid off in the end.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me and helped put me in a position again to bring together Field Day. This has been the 3rd year for me running Field Day and the 4th year I've attended an MRC Field Day, and no matter what level of frustration is associated with the rest of the year, Field Day always makes it worth every bit of it!

Something I would like to address regarding Field Day is the inevitable comments or remarks about problems, issues, etc. To those who felt the need to voice concerns or comments, please by all means address them to the person(s) who organize the event. You are the folks who put us in office, and if you are just going to vent to other members but not your elected officials, nothing will ever change or get done. I know I was available and onsite for all but about 8 hours from Saturday morning at about 1:00am to 9:00am. I would have loved to have heard comments or suggestions for improving our Field Day.

Finally, a big thanks of course to all the people (too many to name) but especially Dean (KB7QDI) and Keith (KC9HAK). Dean was an immense help in bringing the entire event together and Keith was a great help in getting out power systems / networks up and running in time for Field Day.

I look forward to another Field Day next

year. perhaps I won't be running Field Day (although I hope so!) but I hope whoever is (if it's not me) allows me to help with the organization of it for another year.

Thanks to everyone!

Matt / KC9COY
MRC Activities Manager

Message from the Repeater Trustee

On Friday, May 12, 2006, we had an 8.5 hour keydown on 146.310. It started at 8:30AM and ended about 5PM. I presume it was accidental. During such situations, the repeater may or may not be operational depending on the strength and location of the keydown source. Control operators can sometimes work magic. Users might want to try using higher power and/or better antennas in such situations.

All operators should try to avoid being the cause of such a keydown. Most modern equipment has a time-out timer for the transmitter. Please set your equipment for 3 minutes or 2 minutes.

Anybody who causes such a keydown shows great courage to identify their transmissions, as soon as the keydown is discovered.

I personally had my own accidental keydown on the ARES repeater about a month ago. I apologized for my keydown, and have taken steps to prevent it from happening again.

73, Thanks Warren K9IZV

Technical Update Question

In dealing with the conundrum of what to do about our current situation at our main repeater site I found myself looking through newsletters going back to the year 2000. At one time it seemed to be an established fact that our antenna was due for replacement. Not long after that there was talk about the tower. There are some references to the entire tower at main site being replaced, and some discussion regarding costs the Club would incur for replacing antenna feed line and joining cable at that time. Then it was discovered that, due to an increase in tower rent, it would be wise to simply relocate the main site to another tower and become a tenant somewhere else. The notion of moving is appealing; however, the perspective is this: our antenna sits on a tower 1350 feet above sea level. That's a tough act to follow. Very few locations in

this part of the state can offer this kind of elevation -- in the center of the MRC coverage area, even fewer.

Recently I did look for a new main site, as others have before. I didn't however want the Club's repeater to take any kind of demotion in coverage area, and this narrowed the search significantly. The Club's current location is excellent in terms of coverage, but the price is too high.

The only thing worse than overpaying for something, however, is perhaps overpaying for something and having it not work right. The antenna at the main site doesn't work right. If we are going to spend another year deciding what to do about this, please keep in mind that we are going to be spending another year paying for something that doesn't work right.

Is the antenna usable? Yes.

The repeater is still putting out a signal and will for as long as it does. The Club's bylaws state, "This club shall sponsor and support a 2-meter repeater as part of its goal to have a standby emergency communications system." Have we accomplished that? Yes, I think so.

The question becomes, "Is a compromised antenna ok or not?" Should we continue to look for another opportunity on another tower? Should we just accept that were on a tower and that's the best we can do. Is the antenna we have what we have to work with? Or do we take the plunge and replace? The benefit of replacement is that we get to finish a chapter in the progress with our system. Can I swear that the repeater won't need to be relocated soon after we make this investment? Of course not.

On a superficial level, the cost of replacing parts and labor would involve a \$1300 expense for the Club. The climber/contractor I have contacted is yet still to be approved by the tower owner and, therefore, this estimate could go up or down. I expect it would be close. I hope that we can find time to make the next meeting in spite of our busy schedules in order to consider the act of improving and maintaining our valued communication system.

Mark Zentner, KB9VJQ
Technical Director

MRC Meeting Minutes May 18, 2006

Location: Oak Creek

Attendees: Bob (AB9FB), Dean KB7QDI, Mark (KB9VJQ), Mike (K9MDJ), Tom (KC9DPR), Matt (KC9COY) Plus sign in list

Meeting called to order at _7:00PM_ by _AB9FB_

President Bob (AB9FB)

Corrections to 03/25/2006 meeting minutes; Tom KC9DPR was not present, and the new bank is Tri City National Bank, not Tri City Savings. Motion to accept the minutes as amended by Tom WI9TOM, 2nd by Milan N9IDX, Motion carried.

Motion to accept new members by Dean KB7QDI, 2nd by Tom WI9TOM, Motion Carried. Congratulations to new members Jeff WX9S, Ted WB9MVW, Bill AB9HQ, Rick N9PMR, Brad N9KXA, CJ KC9JJS, Rose KA9USZ, Rich KC9JTT, Kevin KC9IZB, and Kelly KB9ZHW.

Gary N9UUR has requested to be replaced as the club Webmaster. Contact a Board member if you are interested.

Vice President Dean (KB7QDI)

ARRL Memberships – If you join the ARRL through the club, \$15.00 of new memberships comes back to the MRC and \$2.00 of renewals comes back to the MRC.

Field day – We are still looking for some equipment; check the list and see if you have something that can be used. All are welcome to help with setup on Friday afternoon at the Whitnall Park toboggan area.

The financial review for 2005 has been completed. Steve KC9AYN stated that there are no unresolved discrepancies. Suggestions by the Committee to move the majority of our funds into an interest bearing account, and clarify some documentation, have already been implemented by our new treasurer.

Treasurer Tom (KC9DPR)

Financial report – total funds \$10,285.07, expendables \$4,035.52, Motion to accept by Matt KC9COY, 2nd by Steve KC9AYN. Motion carried.

Secretary Mike (K9MDJ)

Motion to destroy ballots from the January election, 2nd by Bob AB9FB. Motion carried.

Activities Manager Matt (KC9COY)

Field Day – The park permit has been obtained; once again the Park District waived the fees for the permit. Insurance has been taken care of.

Dean KB7QDI discussed the equipment list; coolers with ice and soda are always welcome. We will also need gas for the generators.

Field Day tshirts will be \$10.00; contact Dean KB7QDI if you are interested. Due to previous problems with people who ordered but then did not pay, he would like the money in advance.

Dean KB7QDI gave an overview of Field Day setup and explained Field Day operation.

New Business

Tom WI9TOM will order a blue club nametag if you are interested. They are held on by magnets (no pins to ruin your shirt). He can be contacted at WI9TOM@arrl.net

Steve KC9AYN will check on shirts for the Club.

Old Business

Steve KC9AYN – Approximately 16 people attended the .91 – 5.13 bowling tournament; 5.13 won. There is a lot of interest for more events, and opening events up to other clubs as well.

Members of the .91 and 5.13 clubs are welcome at each others picnics.

Mark KB9VJQ gave a technical update. If you here a problem with the repeater, he can be contacted at 262-542-5331 or pager 414-584-3652. The main site antenna may be bad; he will have an article for the newsletter to explain the testing and conclusions.

Adjourned _8:00PM_ By _AB9FB_

Respectfully submitted:
Michael D. JONES (K9MDJ)

Note:

Rich KC9JTT has the new call W9XML
Thanks to Matt KC9COY for his presentation on geocaching.

ATTENTION:

Anyone wishing to purchase a name badge like the one shown here, background in BLUE and letters in WHITE, should E-mail me at wi9tom@arrl.net. I have set a ceiling price of \$7.75 on them, and anything left after the badges are sent to me will be put in the Capital Improvement Fund.

73' Tom WI9TOM .-..

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**

Expiration
Date

Call sign _____ Name _____ 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!