



# September - 2008

## Officers

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|--|---|---|---|---|
| Operating the 146.91- repeater under the call sign WI9MRC.<br>For best access use 127.3 PL.<br>Mailing address: PO Box 2123<br>Milwaukee, WI 53201 | President<br>Vice Pres<br>Secretary<br>Treasurer<br>Activts Mgr | Dean Hoover<br>Kurt Elfers<br>Cindy Waltemath<br>John Laske<br>Vince Morano | KB7QDI<br>N9DWG<br>KC9HJU<br>KC9FJX<br>KB9ZOT | kb7qdi@yahoo.com<br>kelfers@wi.rr.com<br>kc9hju@arri.net<br>johnny-05@peoplepc.com<br>kb9zot@arri.net |
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### Meeting Notice...

**September 10** (Wed) 7:00pm Meeting and presentation by Ted N9KQQ regarding satellites and ham radio, Waterstone Bank (Basement) 6560 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Creek, WI

### 2008 Club Calendar...

**October 8** (Wed) Meeting  
**November 1** (Sat) Swapfest  
**November 12** (Wed) Meeting

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

**Oak Creek Location**  
Waterstone Bank (Basement)  
6560 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Creek, WI

### From the President

For my newsletter article this month, I would like to pose a question to all of our members (and non-members who read this) -- is amateur radio more of a hobby or more of a service? There are obvious parts that make it either one, but I think it's important that we examine which one it is more of.

Some might say it's based on the individual, and that would be a reasonable argument. There are people who live and breathe enhancing our

ability to handle emergency communications. Other ham radio operators talk on the repeater or HF rig, finding new friends from around the city and the world. Most do both, even if it's using a local repeater on their HT to provide communications for the many functions (i.e. walks, bike tours, etc.) that other organizations depend on so often.

I ask the question because there are waves again, from certain high-profile people, that literally don't want amateur radio to be called a hobby. In fact, they argue that by calling it a hobby will cause of the overall destruction of amateur radio. They have their reasons: companies would pay top dollar for our bandwidth, we lost our ability to make anything and become operators, and that even though it's called "amateur radio" our ability to behave professionally is in question.

Don't get me wrong - I'm not knocking the service side. Emergency communications is critical for our country. In my opinion, not only do we need emergency responders in amateur radio, I sleep better at night knowing that in a true emergency we have more than just the police and fire communications to depend on.

On the other hand, for as much as I appreciate the love people have for the service of emergency communications, I hope that we don't dismiss the fun that comes from amateur radio as a hobby. Our own 91 repeater is available for any emergency, from the severe weather nets to other situations that might happen but hope never come.

But it's also a social repeater - allowing operators from all over SE Wisconsin and northern Illinois to talk to each other. We want the 91 to be the most used repeater in the area. We want to be "The Friendly One", whether the person keying up is new to the area, or a lifetime member of the club. In fact, if it weren't for the "friendly" part of our repeater, I doubt that we would be able to afford keeping the 91 at one of the best sites in the area.

So, I ask you..... with you being an amateur radio operator, do you feel it is more of a hobby or a service. Which would you like it to be?

Until next time,  
73 de - Dean KB7QD

### From the Treasurer

Greetings to all those people out there reading this newsletter. I would just like to take this time to let all the members know that I am now the person to talk to if you would like to purchase a Milwaukee Repeater Club name badge. The current cost of each badge is \$7.75 each. I will be placing an order once I reach the minimum badges for an order. I would request that if you would like one to contact me at one of the methods listed below. Please include your call sign along with the name you wish to appear on your badge. For all those who have placed an order with me and have not received your badge yet, I will be ordering your badges shortly

### Committees

|                                      |                  |        |                           |                               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Awards . . . . .                     | AI . . . . .     | KC9IJJ | Newsletter . . . . .      | Heidi N9TUY & Bob AA9JW       |
| Computer Net . . . . .               | Dean . . . . .   | KB7QDI | Public Service . . . . .  | Kate . . . . . KA9MWT         |
| Control Operators . . . . .          | Gary . . . . .   | N9UUR  | Station Trustee . . . . . | Warren Schall . . . . . K9IZV |
| Emer Operations & Training . . . . . | Gary . . . . .   | N9MGJ  | Swapfest . . . . .        | Bob AB9FB & Matt KC9COY       |
| Fun Net . . . . .                    | Warren . . . . . | K9IZV  | Swap Net . . . . .        | Leroy . . . . . WD9HOT        |
| Historian . . . . .                  | Warren . . . . . | K9IZV  | Technical . . . . .       | Mark . . . . . KB9VJQ         |
| Librarian . . . . .                  | Steve . . . . .  | W9GSD  | Weather . . . . .         | Skip . . . . . WD9HAS         |
| Membership Coord. . . . .            | Kate . . . . .   | KA9MWT | Webmaster . . . . .       | Gary . . . . . N9UUR          |
| Net Announcements Coord . . . . .    | Milan . . . . .  | N9IDX  | Asst. Webmaster . . . . . | Donovan . . . . . KC9FGJ      |

and once I get them, you will be contacted.

I also encourage you to contact me if any of your information like call sign, email address, street address, phone number, or class of amateur license has changed. Please contact me and let me know the updated information. You can contact me via email at johnny-05@peoplepc.com or you can mail it to the club's post office box. If I can be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. Again, thanks to those who have made the change to email for your newsletter notification.

Thank You,  
John Laske – KC9FJX

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### *From the Activities Manager*

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Hi everyone,  
Summer has been going by quickly. Field day, state fair are already over and the picnic has come and gone. We had perfect weather for the picnic and a great time was had by all who could make it. We had a presentation at the last meeting from our vice president Kurt N9DWG about digital modulation schemes. Our next meeting is on Wednesday September 10th at the Oak Creek location of Waterstone Bank. We will have a presentation from Ted N9KQQ regarding satellites and ham radio. It should be very interesting. Hope to see you all there. Good luck to all our club members who start school soon.

73,  
Vince KB9ZOT

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### *Weather Service Adds New Reference Points*

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By Skip Voros WD9HAS

The National Weather Service has now added airports, state parks, landmarks, and some institutional sites to the list of spotter reference points for making storm reports during the 9-1 Skywarn nets.

Within your county ham radio spotters should do the one-time look for the reference nearest your home and

work location.

A big thanks to everyone who has done the look-up, made reports using the format, and for the realization that there are times when this enjoyable hobby becomes a serious service to our membership, the community, and government agency. And that makes us all look good!

#### **Google Map Reference Centers**

[www.mke-skywarn.org/cities.htm](http://www.mke-skywarn.org/cities.htm)

#### **Ham Radio Storm Reporting Format:**

[http://www.mrc91.org/wx\\_criteria\\_handout\\_2008.pdf](http://www.mrc91.org/wx_criteria_handout_2008.pdf)

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### *Duplexers, Diplexers, and Cavities*

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By Kurt Elfers, N9DWG,  
MRC Vice President

Our repeater has a new duplexer. Sometimes called a cavity, but more correctly called duplexer, is a device which allows us to use the same antenna to receive signals on the input frequency of 146.31 and simultaneously transmit on 146.91. The duplexer isolates the receiver from the transmitter. Without it the high power transmitter would destroy the receiver. Even if the receiver was not destroyed it would be desensitized by the strong transmit signal and be unusable. We share the tower at main site with many other transmitters, most in the business band. These signals have their own antennas but they are close enough to ours to overload a receiver and make it inoperative. You see a similar effect when you use your radio and are close to someone else's. When they transmit your radio is overloaded and cannot receive. At a shared radio tower site this problem is even more severe. The duplexer basically is two very narrowband filters. Since the RX and TX frequencies are so close to each other (only 600 KHz apart) these filters are quite large. This is needed to obtain the high Q or sharpness required. One filter is centered on the receiver frequency of 146.31 and passes this signal to the receiver. All other frequencies are blocked. The 2nd filter is centered on the transmit frequency of 146.91 and allows the transmitter to get its signal to the antenna. It also blocks

other strong signals from coming down the antenna to the transmitter where they could cause intermodulation, or intermod, in our transmitter. This intermod would then be transmitted and potentially interfere with other radio services which, of course, is not good practice, nor is it legal.

The new duplexer is replacing an older unit. Initial measurements show it to have better performance with less loss. Thanks to Mark KB9VJQ and Dean KB7QDI for getting the new unit installed and tested.

Besides duplexers, diplexers are also used in radio systems. Diplexers allow more than one transmitter to use a common antenna. Some dual band radios use one to couple the VHF and UHF sides to a common antenna. Since the frequencies are generally far apart these are much smaller and simpler devices.

For more in depth reading a great article I found on the Internet can be found at

<http://www.seits.org/duplexer/duplexer.htm>

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### *Summer Vacation*

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By: Kayla Joy Waltemath, KC9KPW

Hi Everyone, I just wanted to tell you about my experience as a responder.

When I graduated in May from seventh grade I hoped that my summer would be fun and exciting. I hoped that maybe I would get a babysitting job or some type of job so I could earn some money for shopping trips, vacations and horseback riding. I also wanted something fun to do and I really didn't want to spend my time off being bored. I never thought that I would become an afternoon responder 2x a week every other week. Warren (K9IZV) asked me if I would like to try out being a responder. I really was not sure about getting on the radio and responding for a whole four hours. I like Ham Radio but sometimes it's hard to key the mic and just talk. "Mom and Dad said talking is my

hobby and that I am really good at it", but having to key the mic can be scary when you don't know who is going to answer you back.

My first day as a responder came and I was so nervous that I would screw something up. I didn't want anyone to be mad at me for doing something wrong. I quickly learned that all the people were very nice and very helpful with all the situations that I encountered. Some people that were new to the area didn't know what a responder was. I had an opportunity to explain what my new job was and how it helps the club. It became fun almost right away. The fun part was talking to people with all different interests and stories. Some people are right here in town. Others live far away and are just passing thru, maybe here for work, vacation, or just visiting family. The day was over and now instead of being scared I found myself looking forward to the next time and I accomplished making lots of new friends.

My advise to anyone who has a Ham Radio license is to get on the air and just start talking. There are a lot of opportunities to meet new people and learn new things.

### "NEVER BE AFRAID TO TRY SOMETHING NEW".

Each time that I had to respond became easier and easier. The fear of keying the mic was gone and it was just talking on the radio. I learned how to deal with lots of different situations like technical problems, weather events and keeping a conversation going. You just kind of figure out what to say and how to say it at the time. Sometimes just listening to other responders and hearing how they deal with similar situations helps too. There is usually always someone listening that knows how to fix any problems that comes up.

My summer vacation was a big success, and I have a lot of things to tell my friends when I go back to school. I got a babysitting job, went shopping, horseback riding and had fun being a club responder.

Thank you to all the people who I had the opportunity to speak with. You

really made me feel very welcome and I am grateful for all the information and stories that you shared. My experience as a responder was a lot fun. I look forward to more responding days on the radio, perhaps on days off school or Christmas and Easter break.

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## MRC Meeting Minutes July 16, 2008

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Location: WaterStone Bank (Basement)  
6560 South 27th Street; Oak Creek, WI  
**Meeting Called to Order** at \_ 7:03pm  
by Dean ( KB7QDI)

*There was a motion* by Jim (WK9N) to approve membership for (3) new members: KC9MJO - Jackie Jurek, N9YE - Wes Anderson, KC9NSU - James Langer The motion was seconded by Milan (N9IDX). A vote was taken and membership was approved.

*Motion to approve the June 28th 2008 Board Meeting Minutes "as read"* was made by Gregg (W9AWX) and the motion was seconded by John (KC9FMC).

### Treasurer - John (KC9FJX)

Financial Report was reviewed, *a motion to approve* the financial report was made by Joe (N9BJI) and seconded by Bob (KC9JWZ)

CD purchased for \$3000.00 at 3.45% APR

MRC name badges, some have come in and are ready for distribution. Anyone interested in purchasing a name badge should contact John (KC9FJX)

### Vice President - Kurt (N9DWG)

New cables were made by Kurt (N9DWG) for the main site duplexer.

The hope is that with the installation of the new cables and the duplexer there will be an increase in transmit power and it will help the repeater's capability.

Work Day at main site to install the new cables and clean up was cancelled due to inclement weather and will be reschedule sometime soon.

### Secretary - Cindy (KC9HJU)

Milwaukee Repeater Club Picnic  
Date: Saturday, August 2nd  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Location: Greenfield Park (Area # 6)  
2028 South 124th Street  
West Allis, WI  
\*\*\*Please Bring a Dish to Pass\*\*\*

Flyer's were made available with picnic details and directions for anyone who needs them.

Suggestions were made to market the MRC club in new ways to boost membership and interest in the MRC to new and perspective club members thru the use of marketing tools such as a welcome packet that has handouts for: (The following are in no specific order)

1. Commonly asked questions about Ham Radio.
2. Weather Net Handouts
3. Emergency preparedness
4. Net Information
5. Up coming events list
6. Application for membership
7. Technical data about the repeater

This project would be ongoing and information would be updated frequently and could be handed out at different functions like: Swap Fest, Field Day, Super Fest to help boost club membership.

### Activities Manager - Vince KB9ZOT

MRC Picnic details previously given by Cindy (KC9HJU)

Planning for the MRC Christmas party will be coming up soon, anyone interested in helping can contact Vince (KB9ZOT) or Cindy (KC9HJU)

### Technical Committee - Mark (KB9VJQ)

Not Present

### Field Day - John (KC9FMC)

1st QSL card from field day was received

Field Day results have been posted.

John (KC9FMC) was thanked

for all his hard work and planning by Dean (KB7QDI) and the whole group. Warren (K9IZV) handed out Field Day Data.

### Swap Fest - Dean (KB7QDI)

Date: Saturday, November 1st 2008

Location: Elk's Club

5555 West Good Hope Road

Milwaukee, WI

VE Testing will be on-site/ Lower Level

Forums Room will also be on the Lower Level

### Old Business

None

### New Business

Gary (N9MGJ) Discussion about the way we as ham radio operators should question net control during weather nets. If you feel a mistake was made during a transmission "**question rather than correct**" net control during a pause in traffic **\*\*\*Please do not interrupt other radio traffic\*\*\***

Kayla's 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social

DATE: October 4th 2008

TIME: 1:00pm - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Woodlawn Lutheran Church, 2217 South 99th Street West Allis, WI

Please contact Cindy (KC9HJU) at 414-750-3689 if you have any questions or would like to help.

*Motion to adjourn* the meeting was made by: Jim (WK9N) the motion was seconded by Len (K9LJ)

**Meeting Adjourned \_ 8:51pm by Dean (KB7QDI)**

Following the Membership Meeting there will be a presentation by Kurt (N9DWG) on digital modulation schemes.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Cynthia L. Waltemath (KC9HJU)

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## Short Notes

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### Name Badge

Anyone wishing to purchase an MRC name badge should e-mail John KC9FJX at johnny-05@peoplepc.com. The price is \$7.75, and anything left after the badges are sent will be put in the Capital Improvement Fund.

### Yahoo! Group Page

Come visit SE Wisconsin's only Yahoo! group page:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/amateurradiomilwaukee>

It is designed specifically to promote all the great people and clubs in SE Wisconsin. It contains links to all the different clubs in the area, times and locations of the different area nets, and also an opportunity to ask a question on a ham-radio topic, or share your unique knowledge.

### Club Library

The club library is still available for those wanting to know more about upgrading, antennas, and all the other aspects of this great hobby. Talk to Steve W9GSD and ask what's available.