



MILWAUKEE REPEATER CLUB WELCOME PACKET

Hello, and welcome! As a new member of the Milwaukee Repeater Club (otherwise known as the MRC), the Board of Directors and fellow members wish to thank you for joining us.

What is now the MRC started back in 1971. The repeater itself is the oldest, continuous operating repeater in the Milwaukee area, starting with a few fellow ham radio operators who put a lot of time and money into setting up a repeater on the highest hill in southeast Wisconsin. A club was later started in order to help pay back the expenses, and later to pay for the upkeep of the repeater.

Today, the club is headed by a Board of Directors, which includes a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Activities Manager. The board handles the day-to-day operations of the club, but following the path of the membership itself. The membership meets up to six times per year to handle the club business; usually every 2 months, or a few weeks prior to one of our major club events (will explain later).

Along with the Board of Directors, there are several committees that report on a regular basis. Some of them include Technical, Swapfest, Field Day, Weather Training, and our weekly nets. A more complete list of all the committees are on the right hand side of the first page of our newsletters. Most committee chairs encourage participation by the members, so if you see something of interest, let us know.

Also, all of us here hope that you will participate in as many MRC events as you can. Our three biggest events are Field Day, MRC Picnic, and the annual Swapfest. The more participation, the better the events become. Many of our events are family-oriented, so bringing your spouse and kids are highly encouraged.

Lastly, don't forget to check out our web site (<http://www.mrc91.org>), where we have even more information about the club, current and previous copies of our club newsletter, and you can even listen to the repeater over the internet. If you are on Facebook, you can join our MRC club page (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/mrc91>).

Please review the other sections of this Welcome Packet. If you have any questions, let us know. Thanks again for joining, and hope to hear you on the air soon!

73 (best regards),
Dean KB7QDI
Membership Committee

MILWAUKEE REPEATER CLUB WEEKLY NETS

PUBLIC SERVICE

The public service net is every Sunday night at 8 PM. Kate (KA9MWT) is the Net Manager.

This net includes up-to-date information on all amateur radio events in southeast Wisconsin, not just from the Milwaukee Repeater Club. Learn about upcoming events, hamfests, ham radio meetings in your area, training, meet-and-greets, and other activities.

SWAP NET

The swap net is every Sunday night at 9 PM. DJ (N9UNV) is the Net Manager.

If you have something to sell, or interested in a particular ham radio item, tune in and let the net control know. As long as it is amateur radio related, it can be bought or sold on the swap net.

FUN NET

The fun net is every Saturday night at 9 PM. Warren (K9IZV) is the Net Manager.

Topics are different every week, and as the name says, this net is designed with fun in mind. Also, if you have ever thought about being a net control, this is the perfect net to start on.

COMPUTER NET

The computer net is every Thursday night at 9 PM. Warren (K9IZV) is the Net Manager.

Anything computer related is discussed on this net. Doesn't matter if you are a novice or expert in computers; everyone is welcome to pose a question to the group, or help with answering a question from another ham.

PINK HAMSTERS NET

The PINK HAMsters net is every Saturday night at 8 PM. Heather (KC9QXD) is the Net Manager.

In 2014, the Milwaukee Repeater Club became involved with a local chapter of the Pink HAMsters. This group of YL's (Young Ladies) -- female ham radio operators, get together every week on various topics of discussion. All YL's are requested to check in. If you have an XYL (non-ham Young Lady), check-ins via 3rd party are also encouraged.

More information on the Pink HAMsters is in this Welcome Packet.

MILWAUKEE REPEATER CLUB

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE REPEATER

Here are some helpful hints on some procedures we ask all operators to follow, and some policies we have to help you when you're listening or in a QSO:

ACCESSING THE REPEATER

The MRC main frequency is 146.910 Mhz. Because it is a repeater, it has a negative (-) offset, which means when you transmit, the frequency you are transmitting on will be 600 Hz below the main frequency (or 146.310 Mhz). The repeater also can require a 127.3 PL tone. This is used to help with various types of interference and intermod. Refer to your manufacturer's owners manual for more information on how to configure (and save) the repeater to your HT or mobile radio.

For more information on the policies of repeaters and the Frequency Band Plan for Wisconsin, please visit the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (<http://www.wi-repeaters.org>).

LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN

We ask that all new hams listen for a while before they key up. It's not that we don't want to hear from you, but rather we find that if you listen to the repeater, much of the procedures we use become easier to understand and appreciate when you hear it from others. Once you feel comfortable, then key the microphone on your radio and give your callsign.

3 MINUTES

By FCC rules, the repeater has a 3 minute timer. If an operator talks for more than 3 minutes, the repeater will stop transmitting until that person unkeys, then the repeater will "reset". We ask that you keep your transmissions short and concise whenever possible. If you'd like, almost all radios include a timer function, which you can set for less than 3 minutes. If you feel that your transmission might get longer than 3 minutes, you can give your callsign and the word RESET, unkey and wait for the beep, then continue. If other traffic checks in during the reset, please acknowledge them before continuing. If it is emergency traffic, give it to them immediately. Otherwise, continue your traffic if you'd like, and pass it to them when you are finished.

REPEATER RESET

You'll notice that every time someone unkeys, the repeater gives some type of "beep". That is the repeater resetting. It also allows others that might want to join in the conversation the opportunity to do so. If it's your turn to talk, make sure to listen for the beep before you start transmitting (explained later). If you'd like to join a conversation, wait just before the beep and give your callsign. If you are in a conversation with someone, and you hear another callsign before the beep, please acknowledge them when you key up, and pass it to them when appropriate.

USE OF THE WORD BREAK

If you hear someone give their callsign and the word **BREAK**, it may be an emergency. If it's your turn to talk, and you hear someone use that term, acknowledge them and give it to them right away. If it is an emergency, offer assistance if at all possible. If you are in an emergency, the preferred practice is to use the word **EMERGENCY** instead of **BREAK**, as it gives a better representation of your situation.

MILWAUKEE REPEATER CLUB THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE REPEATER (cont)

DIFFERENT BEEPS MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS

There are 4 different type of "beeps" that we use. It is based on the morse code letters E, I, S and N:

- E (dit) - Everything is okay
- I (dit-dit) - Inclement severe weather approaching
- S (dit-dit-dit) - SKYWARN/Severe weather net in STANDBY mode
- N (dah-dit) - Repeater under net control procedures

The best rule-of-thumb is when you hear the S beep, keep all your transmissions short and to the point. Being a primary resource for amateur radio weather spotters, we want those hams the opportunity to report severe weather as quickly as possible. It doesn't mean you can't have a conversation under those situations, but we do ask that you give plenty of room for anyone else so they have the opportunity to relay priority traffic.

If you hear the N beep, then net control is in charge of the repeater, and all amateur radio traffic flows through them. You'll notice that beep during all of our weekly nets, and during severe weather nets, which can happen at any time. No outside traffic is permitted unless it relates to the net in progress, or is an emergency. Everyone else is asked to just listen until the net is finished.

ROUNDTABLES

The MRC repeater is one of the busiest repeaters in SE Wisconsin, which means that there will be times where more than 2 people are in the conversation. When that happens, we call that a "roundtable". For a new ham radio operator, it can be a little daunting, but if you listen closely, you'll notice some simple rules that make roundtables easier. The two most important things to remember in a roundtable is your callsign, and who's callsign (or name) is next.

If there are more than 3 people in the roundtable, one or more might use all 3 minutes on the repeater, so make sure to give your callsign each time it's your turn. Otherwise, you'll be breaking the FCC rule about identifying every 10 minutes.

Also, if you know who the next person is in the rotation, all you have to do is remember who your next person is. Everyone in the conversation will pass it to their next in line. Best practice in a roundtable is at the end of your turn say your callsign, then "over to" the next name or callsign in the roundtable (e.g. "KB7QDI, over to W9ABC Bill"). NOTE: You don't have to know everyone's callsign; the FCC says you only have to know yours. If you can't remember the call of the next person, try to at least remember their name - works just as well.

GIVING YOUR CALLSIGN AFTER EACH TRANSMISSION

The FCC says that you must identify every 10 minutes or at the end of a conversation (also called QSO). If you feel that it's been close to 10 minutes since you identified, make sure to do so. By the same token, you shouldn't have to give your callsign every time, especially on short transmissions.

MILWAUKEE REPEATER CLUB
THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE REPEATER (cont)

TERMS YOU MIGHT HEAR ON THE REPEATER

QRN - natural interference received

QRM - un-natural interference received

QRT - turning off the radio; no longer listening

QSL - message received / understood

QSO - conversation between two or more operators

QST - general announcement

QSY - changing frequencies

QTH - current location

MILWAUKEE REPEATER CLUB MAJOR CLUB EVENTS

WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

The MRC repeater is a primary resource for weather spotting and reporting. Every spring, we work with the Sullivan office of the National Weather Service (NWS), to teach people (hams and non-hams) about how to identify, evaluate, and report (Skywarn) severe weather.

More information on the Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association (MASA) is in this Welcome Packet.

FIELD DAY

ARRL Field Day is the biggest amateur radio contest of the year. The event is held on the last full weekend in June, and is designed as a way to see how ham radio operators can work together and provide communications when there is an emergency. We here at the Milwaukee Repeater Club try to incorporate the contest side of things by working as many stations as possible in a 24-hour period, and also promote the social side by making it a more family-style event. Some members camp out for the entire weekend, some go to the local restaurant for a Fish Fry after helping with setup Friday afternoon, and visitors are always welcome to stop by and inquire on just what ham radio operators can do in an emergency.

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC

The MRC has an annual picnic each year, usually late summer or early autumn. It is a family event, so everyone is welcome. We do ask that those who come bring a dish to pass, but it's not required. The club brings some type of meat (hamburgers, hot dogs, etc), as well as soft drinks. In years past, we've had musicians stop by, bonfires at night, and fellow hams bring their equipment and show off some of the other great facets of our hobby, including portable satellite work, as well as a digital and QRP HF stations.

MRC SWAPFEST

Every year, on the first Saturday in November, the club sponsors the Swapfest. It is the biggest revenue generating event for the club. All different type of amateur radio gear is usually available, and some non-ham items as well. Volunteers are needed to help before and during the event.

**MILWAUKEE REPEATER CLUB
ELMER LIST**

The "Elmer List" are those fellow ham radio operators who are willing to volunteer their time to answer questions. Doesn't have to be "repeater" related; anything in the field of amateur radio can be asked. Whether you are new to the hobby, or been around for a while, if you have a question that you would like help in, the hams below have made themselves available:

NAME	CALLSIGN	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL
Wes Andersen	N9YE		wandersen57@yahoo.com
Patrick Moretti	KA1RB	262-354-2997	pmoretti@wi.rr.com
Steven Mueller	KD9NW	414-231-3466	kd9nwqrz@yahoo.com
Dale Webler	AB9DW		ab9dw@arrl.net

Also, every Tuesday at 6:30 PM, the members of Miller Valley Amateur Radio Club meet. Miller Valley is a ham radio discussion group. Most topics relate to amateur radio, but all discussions are welcome. If you'd like to attend, the address is 4101 W. Bluemound Rd in Milwaukee. After the meeting, many of them have dinner at a local restaurant (aptly named "CQ Food").



MILWAUKEE AREA SKYWARN ASSOCIATION
(<http://www.mke-skywarn.org>)

SKYWARN SEVERE WEATHER NETS

SKYWARN severe weather nets are activated as needed (usually during tornado and severe thunderstorm events). Skip (WD9HAS) is the Net Manager.

This net has priority over all other nets. Area ham radio operators report severe weather conditions from their location, and reports are relayed directly to the National Weather Service. We recommend that anyone interested in reporting take the annual Weather Spotter training classes. Some brief information on reporting procedures are listed below:

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTING CRITERIA AND REPORTING FORMAT

All reports need T-L-C-S: The **T**ime you observed the weather event to the nearest minute in 12 hour format. **L**ocation is your physical location and county or a distance & direction from a valid reference within your county. **C**ondition is what you saw or experienced. **S**ource is your FCC call sign at the end of your report.

MAKING A REPORT

YOU: "This is (Your Call Sign) + Weather Event"

Net control: "Call suffix Go Ahead"

YOU: provide the T-L-C-S information

Net control: "Acknowledges your report."

SAMPLE REPORT

YOU: "This is WD9HAS Hail"

Net control: "H-A-S go ahead"

YOU: "4:35PM, cross streets Wisconsin Ave & Highway 100, Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, estimated golf ball size hail now falling. Several car windows already cracked. WD9HAS."

Net control: "Roger H-A-S, copy estimated golfball..... This is Net Control, etc."

NOTE: Report only what you see or experienced. Never use second-hand sources from friends, radio or TV, scanner, texts, or social media.



Welcome to the Pink HAMsters Wisconsin Chapter!

This is a group specifically for YLs (young ladies). Our aim is to promote more women in ham radio, and getting them on the air. We are an offshoot of the Pink HAMsters in Oklahoma, which was founded by Cindy Downes K5CED. Our group is trying to get Pink HAMster chapters in every state. We started this group here in 2013. There are also groups in Oklahoma and Texas.

Our group meets every Saturday at 8:00pm on the MRC 91 repeater, where the topics are diverse and conversations are lively!

We welcome all young ladies, and all young ladies technician class or higher are encouraged to check in. This is also a great net to practice being net control.

We are also on Facebook - just search for "Pink HAMsters Wisconsin Chapter". We also have merchandise via CafePress using our link: www.cafepress.com/PinkHAMsters

If you are a YL who would like to join in on this fun net, or have topics or questions, please call me at 262-880-3391, or email me at KC9QXD@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing you on the air!!

73 de Heather Schulz, KC9QXD