

The Racine Megacycle Club

What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur radio, commonly called "ham radio", is a hobby enjoyed by many people throughout the world. Licensed Amateur Radio operators enjoy personal two-way communications with friends, family members, and complete strangers, all of whom must also be licensed.

Throughout its history, amateur radio has made significant contributions to science, industry, and the social services. The economic and social benefit derived from amateur radio research has founded new industries, built economies, empowered nations, and saved lives.

Ham Radio operators support the larger public community with emergency and disaster communications. In times of crisis and natural disasters, ham radio may be the only surviving means of communication. It has been found all too often that both wire and cellular telephone systems either fail or are overloaded in times of crisis and radios dedicated to emergency services fare little better.



The Club

Organized in 1927, the Racine Megacycle Club is one of the oldest Amateur Radio clubs in Wisconsin. The club was first affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) in 1948. In 1976 the club was first associated with the American Red Cross.

The purposes of this club are:

- To promote knowledge of Amateur Radio
- To exchange information and cooperation among members
- To conduct club programs and activities which advance the general interest and welfare of Amateur Radio in Southeastern Wisconsin
- To provide public service to the people of Southeastern Wisconsin

Membership

Full membership is open to all licensed Amateur Radio Operators. Associate membership is open to those actively engaged in a class leading to an amateur license and to all other interested persons and associations. Full membership includes all club privileges as well as rights to hold club office and to vote for club officers. Associate membership includes all club privileges except for the right to hold office and vote for club officers. Applications for membership shall be submitted at regular meetings and shall be accepted or refused upon majority vote of the membership present.

Facilities

The Club maintains an Amateur Radio station at the American Red Cross Building for emergency communication and also for use by club members for contesting, demonstrations, classes and personal communications.

Community

The Racine Megacycle club offers classes to encourage people to become licensed Amateur Radio operators. These classes are scheduled on an as needed basis. The classes are free except for the price of the study materials and testing session. Licensed Amateur Radio operators teach the course with no gratuity, as a service to the club and to the community.

Activities

Community

The Racine Megacycle Club supports many community events such as parades, festivals, marathons, triathlons and the like with free radio communications support. Participation in these events serves several purposes:

1. To practice our communications skills in a non-emergency situation
2. To enhance our public relations
3. To have fun!



Training

Each year on the fourth full weekend in June, the Racine Megacycle Club sponsors the annual Field Day emergency communications drill. Field Day is a test of an amateur radio operator's ability to operate in an emergency situation and provide communications under adverse conditions, but it is also a chance for fine-tuning emergency communications skills. Using generators and battery power, and setting up antennas in the field. The idea is to put together a self-sufficient, working station quickly and making contacts in a 24 Hour period. This is training for emergency communications during floods, Hurricanes, fires, Earthquakes and other major disasters.

Fun

The club sponsors a 2-Meter Hidden Transmitter Hunt (Fox Hunt) on every four weeks on a Friday. The purpose of the hunt is to hone radio operator skills in finding hidden transmitters. Teams of Amateur Radio operators search the area for a transmitter. The hunt is usually followed by an informal gathering of the hunters at a local restaurant near where the hidden transmitter was found.



Information

For further information about the Racine Megacycle Club, see us in the web at <http://www.w9udu.org/> or join us at our monthly membership meeting.

Club Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.
American Red Cross Building
4521 Taylor Avenue
Racine, WI

Correspondence Address

The Racine Megacycle Club
c/o Dan Miller
4048 Nicholson Rd
Franksville, WI 53126