

Central Wisconsin Repeater Association, Inc.

PO BOX 13 - Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-0013

Email: wr9abe@yahoo.com Web: www.qsl.net/cwra

March 2023 Annual Newsletter

Repeater Status

Baraboo 146.280/146.880 (123.0 Hz tone) - WR9ABE

Was another good year again with 88 and the only work done has been routine maintenance. And I have noticed that since the antenna configuration was changed back to a single a bit lower on the tower antenna fed through the duplexer a few years ago, the noise issues seen in years prior are much less of a problem. This is probably mostly due to having more distance from the broadcast antenna at the top of the tower and the high level of power that is fed into it. Any mechanical connection subjected to strong RF fields close to that antenna can become a source of broadband noise. And wind causing things on the tower to physically flex exasperates the noise situation.

Madison 146.340/146.940 (123.0 Hz tone) - WR9ABE

Like 88 it was a good year again with 94. The only work on 94 over this last year has been the standard routine preventative maintenance to keep it properly tuned up and functioning.

At this time there are no major equipment changes planned for either repeater. So all in all another quiet year.

Other Stuff

Perhaps the hardest part of putting together this newsletter each year is coming up with something interesting and relevant to CWRA to write about beyond the basic equipment and other status items of the repeater systems. And fortunately there isn't usually that much to write about regarding the repeater systems themselves. That is actually a very good thing.

As an organization CWRA has always sought to be low key, and operate with low overhead. Both in terms of repeater system equipment costs, and also the administrative tasks such as meetings and other overhead that comes with membership organizations. As anyone who has ever been part of a membership organization can probably attest, they can be made into having a lot of overhead.

While tinkering and fiddling with repeater hardware may be fun for some period of time for those technically inclined. It does eventually turn into more of a something that must be done to keep the machine on the air than fun. Boring equipment is good! So choosing repeater hardware and other equipment that is rugged and is low maintenance is important. And is now perhaps easier than ever to source. Also a good thing.

And like all things real estate, setting up a repeater is largely about - location, location, location. And getting and holding onto good locations is perhaps the most challenging aspect of running an amateur radio repeater system. We at CWRA have been very fortunate to have access to some very good locations for many decades now. Hopefully we will be able to continue that for many more years to come.

Email Address – CWRA has a dedicated email address of **wr9abe@yahoo.com**. The email is not checked every day, so responses may not be immediate.

Annual Dues - Remain at \$20. It is not too late to send your dues in time for the annual association meeting or at the meeting in person. Please send them to the CWRA, PO Box 13, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578-0013 if you have not already done so.

Annual Association Meeting – The annual Association meeting will be held in person again this year on Saturday March 18, 2023.

**Eagle Inn
655 Water Street
Prairie du Sac, 53578**

<http://saukprairieeagleinn.com/>

The Eagle Inn is located at the West end of the Prairie du Sac bridge and the intersection of Hwy 60 with Hwy PF and Hwy 78.

A 1PM lunch, order from the menu as in years past. The short Association business meeting then starts at 2:00 PM.

The start time for the gathering same as last year but an hour later than in years previous.

Groups using the CWRA systems

This last year there was some use of the 88 system as a backup for some area bike ride events. Anticipate a similar thing again for this year once summer rolls around.

Sauk County ARES group has been using the 88 system as the local net repeater for WX spotting when they are activated. I have not heard any indication that this has changed.

73 to all,
Duane Grotophorst, N9DG
President - CWRA

BOD Elections

Voting - Since there were only two nominations for Board of Director seats there will be no balloting this year.

Candidate Biographies

BIOGRAPHY

Duane Grotophorst, N9DG

Current CWRA President, BOD member since 2002. First licensed as a Novice in 1980 as KA9HKL, Extra Class since 1987. Retired from Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC in early 2019. My main ham radio interests are with VHF and above "weak signal" and Software Defined Radio. Also am a member of the Badger Contesters, ARRL, and the Central States VHF Society.

BIOGRAPHY

Ralph Pellegrini, N9BDR

Licensed in 1979, currently Extra Class. Recently retired from AT&T as a field tech. I have served on the CWRA board since 1998 as Vice President, also interim President until Duane, N9DG was elected. Currently Vice President, and the Trustee for the repeaters as well as perform maintenance.