

Central Wisconsin Repeater Association, Inc.

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

March 2019 Annual Newsletter

Repeater Status

Baraboo 146.280/146.880 (123.0 Hz tone) - WR9ABE

No significant news for 88. The only technical work done to that system since the last newsletter a year ago has been the standard routine maintenance.

At this time there are no major equipment changes planned.

The occasional noise issue on 88 is still there unfortunately, but is intermittent and is a function of wind conditions at the tower. On calm days it is not present. Have not noted any behavior changes of that noise for several years now. The last notable change of the noise behavior was the improvement after some bonding work was done to hardware and other items on the tower that were not CWRA's antennas or feedlines. The noise is being generated by other items on the tower and not within the CWRA antennas or feedlines themselves.

Madison 146.340/146.940 (123.0 Hz tone) - WR9ABE

Once again 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.

Board of directors update

Due to moving back to Maryland to be closer to family, Matt, N3IVK has resigned his position on the CWRA board. The board has appointed Rich Green, KC9FNM to fill out the remainder of Matt's 2018-2021 term. Matt provided a great deal of expertise and knowledge to CWRA that running repeaters require. Rich brings the same level of knowledge, background, and connections to the organization since he too works in the 2-way radio business. Having people on the board closely associated with that and related industries is very valuable to CWRA. Thank you Matt for your time with the board. And thank you Rich for joining the board to fill out the remainder of that board seat term.

Groups using the CWRA systems

1. Sauk County ARES group uses the 88 system as the local net repeater for WX spotting when they are activated. This has been the arrangement for several years now and will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future.

2. Some bike ride or similar type events which typically use one or both of the systems for their communications needs. We have confirmation already for this year that those same events will once again be using the CWRA systems as in years past.

An interesting item of note

As I was looking through the repeater listings at <https://wi-repeaters.org/> I noticed that as of now there are only two repeater groups in all of Wisconsin that have WR#*** call signs on repeater systems. One is CWRA, and the other is the Riverland ARC in La Crosse. And nationwide there not many repeaters with WR call signs either.

Some background for the more recently licensed members: Back in the early to late 1970's all repeaters had "WR" call signs. It was the FCC requirement for all repeaters at that time. Then in 1978 as part of the FCC call sign system overhaul, it changed that requirement and stopped renewing WR call signs. So most repeater groups ended up with different non-WR call signs over the years that followed. Then when the current vanity call sign program opened up, CWRA was able to get its original WR9ABE call sign back and it has been what the CWRA repeaters have ID'd with since. All WR call signs are now part of the "Group X" call sign block that FCC will not currently issue. So WR call signs will remain rare for the foreseeable future.

So it is nice that through good fortune and timing that CWRA has been able to hang onto a piece of its early history and identity.

Email Address – CWRA has a dedicated email address of **wr9abe@yahoo.com**. *Please note that the email has aggressive spam filtering setup on it that the subject line must have "CWRA" included in it.* Any email without CWRA in the subject line will be filtered out and may be missed.

Annual Dues - Remain at \$20. If you want a membership card, be sure to include a SASE with your dues payment. A membership card may also be picked up in person at the annual Association meeting. Also as a reminder, it is still not too late to send your dues in time for the annual association meeting. 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 on Saturday April 6, 2019. It is a new location for the annual meeting this year. The Sauk City Family Restaurant located at the intersection of Hwy 12 and Hwy 60 (E11394 US Hwy 12, Sauk City, 53583) which about 2 miles west of the Sauk City bridge on Hwy 12.

<http://saukcityfamilyrestaurant.com>

A 12 noon lunch, order from the menu as in recent years past. The short Association business meeting then starts at 1:00 PM.

Looking forward seeing you all at the annual meeting on April 6.

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. The two nominations were for the existing BOD members Tom, Luck and Bill Klinkner who's seats were up for re-election.

Candidate Biographies

Tom Luck, WB9BPS

I have been licensed since 1969 and have held WN9BPS.

I have been a member of CWRA almost since its beginnings in the early 70's and a board member in the late 70's.

I have the CWRA treasure over 37 years.

I am a design hardware/software engineer for Prairie Digital.

My major interests are computers, electronics, woodworking, metalworking, sailing, boating.

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX

Past and Current Board Member of CWRA.

Former board member of YTARC.

Technical Background - WI School of Electronics grad.

Job: Owner Klinkner Electronics, Prairie du Sac, WI.