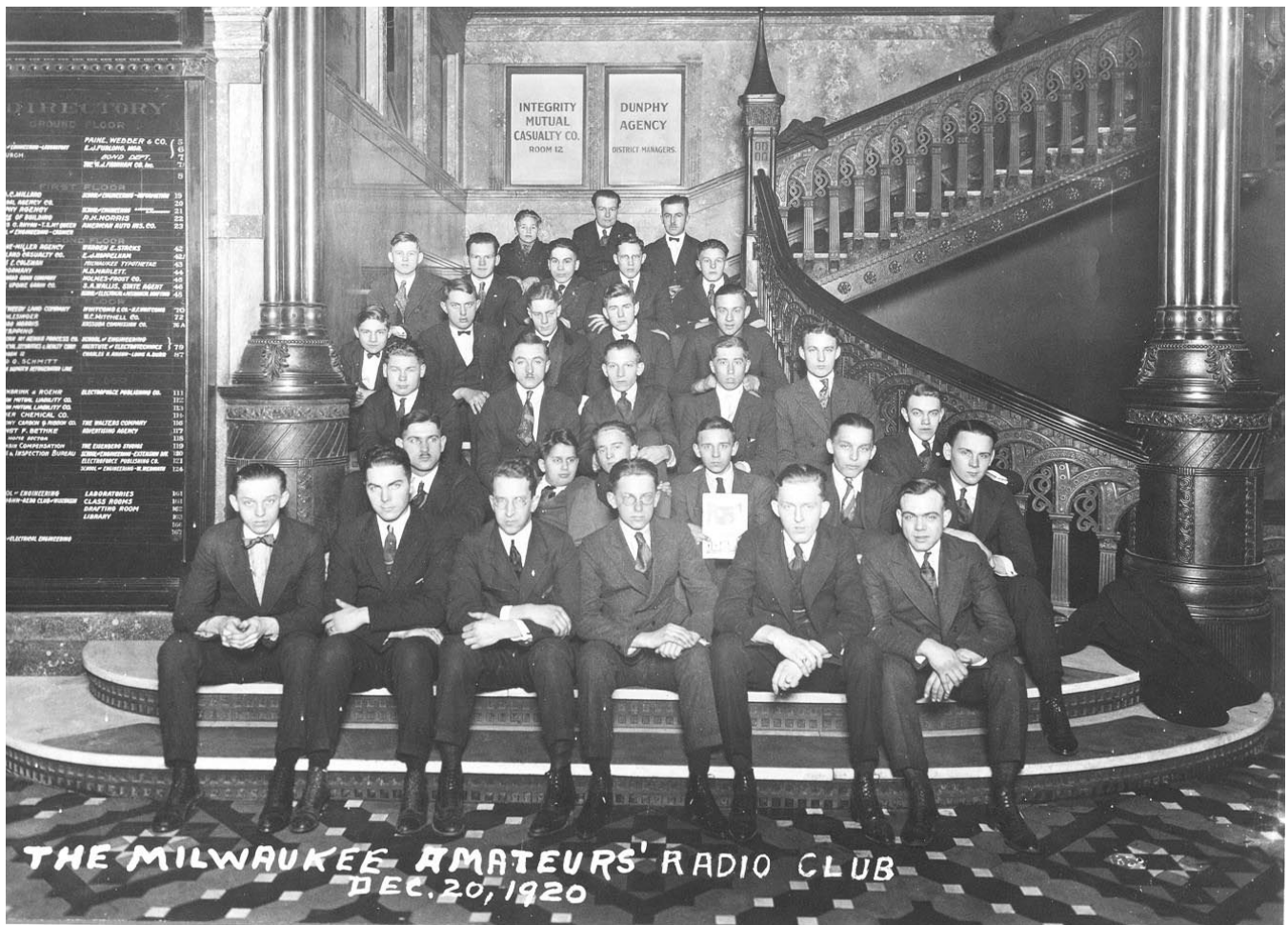


The History of The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Inc. "MRAC" Part 1A: 1917-2003



INTRODUCTION

For a group in existence as long as the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, no effort was made to compile a history of the group until 2000. This came about by combing through surviving club records. As is the case when sifting through 80+ years of documents, there were a number of gaps in the time-line. We have attempted to fill missing years with some general world news headlines. Those headlines also serve to add to the ambiance of the MRAC story.

In 2003 the history was updated to pick up information of the last few years, correct some spelling and grammar mistakes and to even add some additional history information. Hopefully we can keep this a living document so future amateur radio operators can fully appreciate the long and illustrious story of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club.

For a number of years the club touted itself as the oldest continuously active amateur radio club in the world. In recent years we have uncovered information that disproves that fact. However, while a number of clubs actually started before MRAC. Only a handful remain and of those only about 3 or 4 have remained continuously active (generally they closed down during World War I and II – MRAC did not). So MRAC is one of a very few of the worlds oldest continuously active amateur radio clubs.

So let's travel through the years and see the highlights of MRAC, amateur radio and some world news.

1912

- Congress passes the Radio Act of 1912, licensing amateur radio operators and restricting them to wavelengths shorter than 200 meters (frequencies greater than 1500 KHz)

1914

- The American Radio Relay League was formed.

1917

- January—The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club was formed by Loy Schell Hillegas-Baird 9HO, and three others. The first meetings were held at the Trustee's Room of the Milwaukee Public Museum.
- The U.S. declared war on Germany.
- Radio Amateurs are ordered off the air due to the war.
- Congress passed the Espionage Act, providing a \$10,000 fine and 20 years in prison for anyone who encouraged disloyalty or interfered with the draft.
- U.S. purchases the Virgin Islands from Denmark.

1918

- March 13 was the start of daylight savings time.
- October—the Influenza Epidemic strikes 1/4th of all U.S. citizens. War assembly plants were shut down and panic spread from coast to coast.

1919

- MRAC became affiliated with the ARRL (December 5).
- Ban on amateur radio because of World War I was lifted.
- Hiram Percy Maxim, founder of the ARRL, made the first major push to affiliate radio clubs across the country.
- Ratification of the 18th amendment to the constitution on prohibition, outlawing liquor, created turmoil.

1920

- Tucson, Arizona inaugurates the first municipal airport in the country.

1921

- First ARRL National Convention is held in Chicago.
- Professor Albert Einstein introduced " Time " as the fourth dimension to his theory of relativity.

1922

- MRAC starts its first code and radio building classes. Elementary electricity and radio was taught.
- MRAC members are using spark transmitters.
- The Lincoln Memorial was dedicated in Washington D.C.
- Daily broadcasting of music and news was scheduled in New York City. Crystal headphone receiving sets were selling rapidly.

1923

- Department of Justice officials asked all amateurs to voluntarily change from spark to CW transmissions. (The Dept. of Justice had charge of radio before the creation of the FCC).
- Time magazine was founded.
- The first Schick electric shaver was sold.

1924

- The Milwaukee Journal started a column in their newspaper called "HamChatter".
- Amateurs using phone transmissions were warned to stop or they would loose their license, only CW was legal.
- MRAC has CW classes and radio theory once a week.
- The " W " prefix was added to all amateur calls, both new and existing.

1925

- MRAC starts its own news letter called the Badger ARRL News.

1926

- MRAC has members in all 48 states due to the popularity of the " Badger ARRL Newsletter." The newsletter contained diagrams on crystal oscillators and other up to date radio circuits that could be built.
- General Billy Mitchell begins to establish a modern military air power.
- Henry Ford starts offering his cars in other colors besides black. He also introduces the 8-hour work day and 5 day work week to the auto industry.
- NBC organizes the first nationwide radio broadcast network.

1927

- MRAC organizes two baseball teams, the team were, " Key-Klickers and Brass Pounders ".
- President Coolidge appoints five people to a new Federal Radio Control Commission.
- The first iron lung is used.
- Charles A. Lindbergh reaches Paris in 33 hours and 29 minutes.
- The first talking motion picture is produced and TV's first successful transmission is made.

1928

- MRAC installs a club station at the Coast Guard Station at McKinley Beach.
- MRAC also sponsors the first ARRL Central Division Convention at the Milwaukee Republican Hotel, May 25 through 27.
- The Radio Commission starts testing for " Amateur First Grade " licenses.
- Commander Byrd Expedition is in progress to the South Pole. Byrd had a amateur radio equipment along.
- Walt Disney releases the first Mickey Mouse cartoon called " Plane Crazy " and also the first cartoon with sound.

1929

- MRAC buys code practice equipment to teach large classes.
- Al Capone's infamous St. Valentines Day Massacre takes place.
- The U.S. Stock Market crashes.

1930

- MRAC continues with annual picnics, and code and theory classes.
- ARRL starts the contest Field Day. MRAC participates in the very first.
- ARRL Official Observer Stations were established to watch for Hams operating outside the bands.
- The Chicago Northwestern Railway asked for a list of club members who could be called if they had an emergency. Seven MRAC members volunteered.
- Albert Einstein arrives in the U.S. from Germany.
- The existence of the planet Pluto is confirmed.

1931

- MRAC members start building 5 meter equipment, 56 Mc (i.e.: 56 MHz).
- The Milwaukee Journal ends " HamChatter " in the newspaper. However, they granted us time to broadcast information over WTMJ radio.
- Herbert Hoover signed an Act making " The Star-Spangled Banner " the national anthem.
- Thomas Edison dies.

1932

- MRAC begins using motion pictures for training and entertainment at meetings.
- The Polaroid camera is invented.
- Franklin Roosevelt is elected president, he pledged the " New Deal " for all Americans.

1933

- Many members attend the " Chicago World's Fair " for radio demonstrations.
- The U. S. Government offered training programs in radio and other fields in an effort to get people to sign up for the " Army or Navy Volunteer Reserve".
- Prohibition is repealed.
- Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany.

1934

- Unions in the U.S. gain great power.

1935

- MRAC's founder gets tuberculosis and is confined to a sanatorium.
- Bootleg 5 meter stations become a problem.
- Congress enacts Social Security.

1936

- FDR is elected for a second term.
- The Olympics are held in Germany. Hitler expected the games to be a show place to prove the superiority of the Nazi system.
- The Olympics featured the first television broadcast.

1937

- Howard Hughes established a transcontinental flight record.
- The Golden Gate Bridge is dedicated in San Francisco.
- Amelia Earhart makes her last flight.

1938

- Nazi Germany takes over Czechoslovakia.
- Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs " is the top money making movie of the year.

1939

- MRAC sets up a booth at the Wisconsin Hobby Exposition at the Auditorium.
- The club also starts having a raffle to raise money.
- FDR is the first President on TV over the NBC experimental channel.
- Scientist split the atom.
- Germany invades Poland.

1940

- MRAC sponsors the ARRL Wisconsin Convention at the Schroeder Hotel.
- Dr. Vladimir K. Zworykin demonstrates the first electron microscope.
- Woman's first Nylon stockings go on sale.
- U.S. cipher experts use a technique they called "Magic" to break the Japanese secret diplomatic code.
- FDR is elected for his third term.
- The first helicopters are flying.

1941

- The ARRL is flooded with requests from the government for technical men needed on National Defense projects. Special registration blanks were included in the December QST. The government was looking for specialist with radio experience to replace civilian workers that have been called into the service or to a defense post.
- December 7—the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.
- December 8—MRAC worked with the Mayors office to set up a state wide and local defense program.
- The Red Cross suggested that club members form a group to take First Aid instructions A.S.A.P.
- Rubber tires are the first items to be rationed.

1942

- MRAC members start the War Emergency Radio Service in Milwaukee. Stations required a special license to operate on 2 1/2 meters with a maximum input power of 25 watts.
- Jan. 15—All amateurs go off the air. (The military has sole use of the amateur frequencies).
- February 5 - Signal Corps is looking for radio operators.
- March 15—Marine Corps offered a qualified radio man a rank of Staff Sergeant and \$72 per month to join up and help.
- April—Raytheon tube company is recruiting radio men for training on microwave radio defense systems. (Radar).
- Col. Doolittle's Raiders bomb Tokyo.
- Gasoline rationing goes into effect.
- U.S. wins at Midway.

1943

- MRAC buys 5 Series F war bonds.
- Club meetings were held every Thursday at the Public Library. Many times only 6 or 8 attended, but it kept the club active.
- MRAC's Erwin Kreis W9HRM, Tommy Gettelman W9IZO, and Charlie Meyer W9GVL create and send out monthly news letters to our members in the service to let them know what is going on at home.
- A new form of mold on cantaloupe is discovered that yields 10 times the amount of penicillin as previous sources.
- Roosevelt and Churchill decide that " Unconditional Surrender" will be demanded from all enemies.
- The IRS created the W-2 form for tax withholding.
- Incendiary bombing starts a new phenomenon, the "Intense Fire Storm" warfare is born.
- The 100th year anniversary of the first practical electric telegraph. A commemorative postage stamp was issued for the occasion.
- The 75th anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad line.
- The 125th anniversary of the first ship to cross the Atlantic under steam power.
- Paperback books are introduced.
- Hitler starts using the Buzz Bomb (Over 9000 were used).
- The V-2 rocket began use. The first V-2 went out of control and landed in Sweden. Its remains were quickly recovered and sent to the British.

1945

- Japan starts using Kamikaze pilots.
- Hitler commits suicide.
- The atomic bomb is dropped on Japan, the war is over.
- MRAC members terminate their efforts with the War Emergency Radio Service and take their antennas down.
- Amateurs can go back on the air.
- Amateur license terms are extended from 3 to 5 years.
- The Federal Government drops control over the sale of radio tubes.
- The new FM broadcast system is relocated to 88 through 106 MHz.

1946

- Calculation by computer begins. The ENIAC computer had over 18,000 tubes.
- The first bank drive up window is used.

1947

- MRAC applies for its first club call. W9HRM, from deceased member Erwin Kries.
- The first tubeless tires are introduced.
- Chuck Yeager breaks the sound barrier.

1948

- MRAC sponsors the ARRL National Convention at the Milwaukee Auditorium (September 4-6).
- MRAC gets its first demonstration of SSB from W2KUJ of General Electric.
- MRAC meets weekly (Thursdays) in the Conference Room of the Milwaukee Public Museum (except the months of June, July and August).
- Commander Fred Catel, W9DTK, a club member, arranges a tour of the USS Tautog submarine docked at the Broadway bridge downtown.
- Religion is abolished in public school classrooms.
- The first solar heating system is installed.
- The first 33 RPM records come out.
- The Berlin Airlift starts.

1949

- U.S. born "Tokyo Rose" gets 10 year sentence for treason.
- The first woman's bikini is sold.

1950

- The Korean war starts. China sends 850,000 to help North Korea resist our Police Action.

1951

- MRAC adds the office of Second Vice-President. 1st V.P. was Travis Baird W9VQD and the 2nd. V.P. was Ken Eggert W9MOT.
- FCC creates the Novice, Technician and Extra class licenses to join the Advanced (formerly class A), General (formally Class B) and Conditional (formerly class C) licenses.
- Over 3 million Koreans are dead in one year.
- The "King and I" becomes a Broadway smash.
- The 22nd amendment is added to the Constitution - No person can be a U.S. President for more than two terms.

1952

- MRAC has 250 members.
- MRAC provided communications for the car race at Elkhart Lake. 25 members stationed in their cars strategically parked around the 7-1/2 mile race course funneled their observations of the race's progress to the central control.
- MRAC ladies auxiliary is started.
- MRAC gets an International Harvester truck for portable radio communications. The truck was distinctively marked with the clubs call, W9HRM (at the time). The truck had a matching trailer with a 2.5 KW generator in it.
- December—FCC stopped issuing new Advanced class licenses and took away Advanced and Extra privileges.
- The first UHF TV station goes on the air.
- Denver TV station is the first to go on the air with more than 5KW of power.

1953

- MRAC starts with a achievement award program for making contacts.
- January—The first moonbounce signals heard.

1955

- MRAC starts first TVI technical staff to help all Milwaukee amateurs that are having TVI problems.

1956

- U.S. starts the Interstate Highway System.

1957

- Russia launches the first satellite called Sputnik.

1958

- 27 MHz taken away from hams and the Citizens Radio Service created.

1959

- Amateur Electronic Supply starts demo's of new equipment at MRAC meetings.
- Members go on a field trip to the Hallicrafters plant.
- U.S. hams get an additional 50 KHz at top end of 20 meters.
- Alaska becomes the 49th state.
- Hawaii becomes the 50th state.
- Castro takes over Cuba as dictator.
- America's first 7 astronauts are selected.

1960

- MRAC still runs Civil Defense Emergency drills.
- July—The first moonbounce 2 way contact takes place.
- The U.S. signs a treaty with Japan to defend them against future attacks. U.S. builds first bases in Japan.
- President Kennedy commits the U.S. to putting a man on the moon.
- U2 spy plane is shot down over Russia.
- U.S. launches 1st reconnaissance satellite.
- FDA approves the 1st contraceptive pills, \$10 per months supply.
- The U.S. atomic sub " Triton " circumnavigates the globe in 84 days, 30,708 miles.

1961

- December 12 - OSCAR 1, the first amateur radio satellite and the first non-government sponsored satellite is launched.
- 60th anniversary of Marconi's first transatlantic wireless communication between England and Newfoundland.
- President Kennedy creates the "Peace Corps".
- Russia puts the first man into space.
- Congress passes a bill making it a Federal crime to hijack an airplane or ship.
- The Berlin wall is built.
- The 1st U.S. military companies arrive in South Vietnam.

1962

- John Glenn makes his famous orbits around the earth in Friendship 7. The event was televised on TV and watched by 135 million Americans.
- June—OSCAR 2, the second amateur radio satellite is launched.
- The first privately owned satellite "Telstar" relays TV programs.
- U.S. blockades Russian ships delivering missiles, from reaching Cuba. The U.S. threatens to invade Cuba not knowing that the Russians already had 12 small nuclear missiles already in Cuba. The Russians fortunately back down.

1963

- The first Russian woman orbits the earth.
- Race riots are becoming common in the U.S.
- 115 countries sign a World Treaty banning nuclear test in the atmosphere, except France and China.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. starts his civil rights marches in Washington.
- President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1964

- U.S. Post Office releases Ham Radio stamp on the 50th anniversary of the ARRL.
- China explodes their first atomic bomb.

1965

- U.S. bombs North Vietnam as 1st troops land in DaNang.
- The first cigarette packages to have health warnings on them are produced.
- National attention to ban the use of the LSD drug.
- Ralph Nader, a young lawyer, fights for safety regulations on all cars.
- The Treasury Dept. reports the Vietnam war is costing America \$1,200,000,000.00 per month.

1967

- MRAC sponsors its second Central Division ARRL Convention. The West Allis and Menomonee Falls clubs join with us to help at the convention.
- "Hippies" and "Flower Children" movement starts.
- There are race riots in 127 cities across the country, including Milwaukee. The National Guard is called out.
- "Incentive Licensing" takes effect, returning Advanced class license and taking privileges away from Generals, effectively stopping growth of Amateur Radio.

1968

- The Green Bay Packers win the 1st Super Bowl.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated.
- President Johnson orders a complete halt to the bombing of North Vietnam.

1969

- MRAC changes club call to W9RH call formally held by Emil Felber.
- Astronaut Neil Armstrong is first human to set foot on the moon.

1970

- MRAC's youngest member at this time was Dave DeFebo WN9BWP, he would later become club President (twice).
- Many club members participated in a open house program where they invited members of the club to come see their Ham Shacks.
- The US has nationwide protesting to end the Vietnam War.

1971

- MRAC assists in providing communications at the Schlitz Circus Parade on the 4th of July.
- National Radio Co. files for Chapter 11 and ceased to manufacture radio equipment. Their HRO receivers were Ham Radio favorites.
- 18 year olds get the right to vote.
- President Nixon has audio recording equipment installed in the White House.

1972

- Allied Radio exits the mail order business.
- President Nixon makes first China visit by a modern day president.
- While campaigning for President, Alabama Governor George Wallace is shot and paralyzed from the waist down.

1973

- The Vietnam war ends.
- The Watergate scandal starts.

1974

- MRAC Ham Chatter starts a regular monthly schedule instead of a random schedule.
- Arab oil embargo happens. Long line and waits for gas as big oil corporations limited supply to raise prices. OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) limited supplies and forced the price of oil to increase greatly as the value of the dollar was diminishing. The government starts printing gas-rationing coupons in case the gas shortages get out of hand.
- Nixon is ordered to release 64 tapes in the Watergate investigation.
- President Nixon reveals cover-up and later resigns from office.
- New President Ford pardons Nixon of all crimes.
- The U.S. movie rating system starts.

1975

- Unemployment in the U.S. reaches 6.5 million.

1976

- The club offers code and theory classes at Wauwatosa East High School, to boost membership taught by Dick Oberholzer W9ZPV, Walt Glish W9YYW and Dave DeFebo WB9BWP. The classes run at least one session per year for 9-12 weeks. Some years there will be 2 or 3 9-12 week sessions.

1977

- MRAC begins having meetings at Wauwatosa Savings and Loan (having moved from the Milwaukee School Of Engineering).

1978

- MRAC membership reaches 195.
- The MRAC charged \$5.00 for classes and gave free membership for the balance of the year.

1979

- MRAC has 198 members.
- MRAC along with Milwaukee ARES stage an amateur radio show at Mayfair Mall covering an entire weekend.
- MRAC adds a dinner to the annual Old Timers' Nite/ Christmas Party to celebrate 60 years of affiliation with ARRL. ARRL Vice-President Dick Baldwin attends.
- Hams are given privileges on 10 MHz, 18 MHz, and 24 MHz at the World Administrative Radio Conference.
- Three Mile Island nuclear accident. The core reached 5000 degrees before it was brought under control.

1980

- MRAC adds a General class license class to the Novice class the club has been running.
- Governor Lee Dreyfus signed documents proclaiming May 17th Amateur Radio Day in Wisconsin. This notice was displayed on a sign on City Hall. QST magazine has a picture of Milwaukee City Hall with Amateur Radio sign in the December issue.

1981

- MRAC has a booth at the International Science & Engineering Fair at MECCA.
- The Milwaukee City Hall photo of Amateur Radio Day appears in a Norwegian Radio Relay League magazine. In Norway, May 17th is a national holiday similar to our 4th of July.
- The club is polled by the ARRL about a new code free license proposal.
- Channel 12 video tapes our Field Day site for the 5 and 10 o'clock news.
- The first space shuttle Columbia goes into space.

1982

- MRAC adds an Advanced/Extra class license class to the Novice and Technician/General classes the club has been running.
- The FCC votes to retain the Morse code requirements for all grades of license.

1983

- MRAC acts as QSL manager for Space Shuttle flight ST-9.
- MRAC demonstrates 10 foot earth station satellite antenna to all Milwaukee area hams.
- MRAC begins to administer amateur tests working with a Chicago VEC.
- FCC maintains code requirements, there are many requests to reconsider.
- W5LFL becomes the first amateur to transmit from space aboard the Space Shuttle.

1984

- MRAC goes into full operation as a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC).
- FCC creates PRB-1 rule issuing a federal pre-emption over local tower laws.

1986

- MRAC is QSL manager for Tony, W0ORE, on Space Shuttle Mission STS51-F.
- MRAC field day group makes over 1000 contacts.
- MRAC has a special event station at Polish Fest.
- The membership votes to have the club picnic on the same day with Field Day.
- Packet radio begins.
- The Space Shuttle Challenger explodes on liftoff killing all aboard.

1987

- MRAC provides communications for the Tri-County YMCA Races.
- MRAC sends \$200 to the Clements Michigan Leance-Cruze Amateur Radio Club to help fight a lawsuit to defeat a ban on amateur radio antennas.
- Russian nuclear power plant disaster at Chernobyl.

1988

- MRAC call W9RH is used for a 10 meter net on 28.4 MHz.

1989

- Ten-Ten International held its second Biennial International Convention in Milwaukee.

1990

- MRAC starts purchasing Field Day radio equipment and antennas.
- MRAC officers move to 2 year terms.
- Hubble Space Telescope is launched. Focus doesn't work.
- Gulf War to rescue Kuwait from Iraq invasion, begins.

1991

- MRAC sets up amateur station at Discovery World at the Milwaukee Museum.
- MRAC has our last Field Day at the old Nike Missile site in Lannon.
- MRAC members provide communications at the Channel 10/36 wine tasting event at Mayfair Mall.
- Jim Harrington donates a Heathkit SB-104 transceiver to MRAC for Field Day use.
- MRAC License classes move to Marquette Electronics R&D Center after Wauwatosa recreation department raised rent paid by the club for using Wauwatosa East High School.
- FCC creates a new Technician license without a Morse code requirement.

1992

- October—MRAC gets a repeater. The frequency is 147.045.
- MRAC Field Day takes place at Indian Mounds Boy Scout Camp.

1993

- MRAC classes for all grades of amateur license and VE testing move to Village At Manor Park thanks to Phil Lehman, KB9FOQ.
- MRAC has first Field Day at the RR Museum in Cedarburg thanks to Fred Linn, W9NZF.

1994

- MRAC dues raised to \$15 in part due to newsletter publishing costs.
- Amateur Electronic Supply has its first "Superfest" with MRAC having a club table and conducting license exams.

1995

- Position of MRAC board Chairman is eliminated and new By-Laws are written.

1996

- MRAC establishes nets on both 2 and 10 meters on Friday nights.
- MRAC has last meeting at Wauwatosa Savings Bank.
- MRAC continues as VEC with Ed Wille W9PWG taking over from Jack Krause W9JK who ran it for 12 years.
- MRAC holds last license class of current 20 year run at Village At Manor Park.

1997

- MRAC has new meeting location at Redemption Lutheran Church.

1998

- Ed Wille W9PWG completes a record 9+ years as club president (after taking over from Harry Cieszki who moved to Florida).
- President Bill Clinton becomes the first President to be impeached since Andrew Johnson (marks only the third time in US history a President has been impeached).

1999

- John Kraak KF9XL and Tom Fuszard KF9PU take over VEC duties after the death of Ed Wille W9PWG.
- March meeting features Bart Jahnke W9JJ a Wisconsin native who works for the ARRL.
- MRAC adds an email address for communicating with the board.
- The FCC makes major changes to amateur rules, cutting license classes from 6 down to 3 with a single 5 wpm code test for the 2 highest classes (Novice and Advanced eliminated).

2000

- MRAC first written history compiled by Jim Tromblay, WB9LNU.
- MRAC again offers license classes, now at Amateur Electronic Supply.
- MRAC creates its own World Wide Web site.
- MRAC VEC processes over 300 people in the first 4 months of the year in preparation of license changes on April 15.
- MRAC Repeater is relocated atop the Eaton building near 27th and Capitol Dr.
- The MRAC club auction is revived after a numbers of years of absence.
- April 15—Code speed for General and Extra license reduced to 5 wpm. No new Novice and Advanced class licenses will be issued.
- November—The largest and most expensive amateur satellite (Phase 3D or AMSAT-OSCAR 40) is launched.
- The first ham activity from the International Space Station takes place.
- Due to a close election and some possible voting irregularities, it took 37 days after the election to formally declare a new President of the US.

2001

- Dick McNew WB9PTC moves his on-air code practice from 2M simplex to the MRAC repeater.
- MRAC Newsletter, "*Hamateur Chatter*" goes to a 6 week circulation to keep costs down.
- Tom Czaja KG9EE and Mark Tellier AB9CD step up to be "assistant VEC managers" backing up John Kraak KF9XL and Tom Fuszard KF9PU.
- MRAC field day features a telescope for actual viewing of sunspots, live.
- MRAC Field Day features first ever satellite contact (by Brian White K9LCQ).
- MRAC raffles donated 10M radio and antenna with winner selected at the Christmas Party - winner was Ted Stiller WA9RDI - raffle brought in \$170.
- MRAC finishes year operating in the black for the first time in years (as a result of some strong belt-tightening and begging for donations the last few years).
- MRAC eliminates the positions of 2nd Vice President and one Director due to continuing difficulty getting people to run for office.
- The first "space tourist" goes into space for a stay aboard the International Space Station (after paying Russia 20 million dollars).
- September 11 - Middle Eastern terrorists hijack 4 airplanes and crash 2 into the World Trade Center towers in New York City and one into the Pentagon in Washington D.C. The fourth plane crashes in a field in Pennsylvania. Both World Trade Center towers collapse within hours. No non-military air traffic is allowed for 3 days.
- The US invades Afghanistan, the center of much of the world's terrorist activity and home to the organization responsible for the September 11 attacks on the US.

2002

- MRAC Newsletter, "*Hamateur Chatter*" goes to a bi-monthly circulation to keep costs down.
- MRAC celebrates its 85th birthday with a special event station resulting in over 500 contacts being made world-wide.
- MRAC Repeater receives a new Decibel Products commercial antenna (April) and new GE commercial receiver/transmitter hardware (July) and changes frequency to 145.39 MHz (swapping frequencies with MATC repeater).
- MRAC license classes start from a second location - Brown Deer United Methodist Church.
- MRAC Field Day features not one but two telescopes (beating last year) as well as the first ever movie showing (Frequency) during evening break.
- The first J. Travis Baird award is presented to Dick McNew WB9PTC in recognition of his never ending helping of prospective and new hams learn amateur radio and especially Morse code.
- On-Air code practice on the club repeater taken over by D.J. KC9AYO.
- The Central States VHF Society holds its 36th annual convention in Milwaukee. This is the first convention held in the upper Midwest since 1989 and first held in Wisconsin.

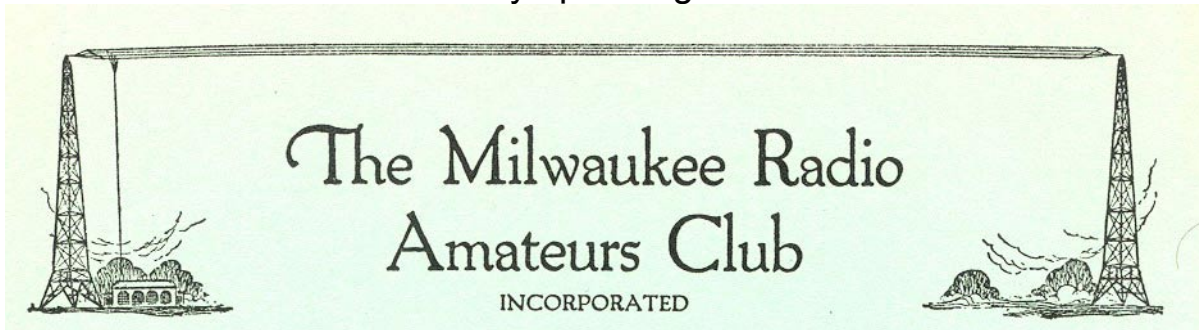
2003

- MRAC raises dues to \$17 per year in order to bring the newsletter back to a monthly circulation.
- MRAC sponsors its first VHF/UHF FM Sprint contest.
- MRAC club history is updated.
- MRAC Repeater moves to another new location sharing space with receivers for other local repeaters and a Navy MARS repeater on the channel 18 TV tower (receive antenna at 750 feet). MRAC provides an antenna and cavities for the community repeater project. Thanks to MATC/channel 10/36 for the space.
- The space shuttle Columbia breaks apart during re-entry over the southern US killing all aboard including 3 hams. This is the first time there has ever been a loss during a landing.
- The US attacks Iraq.

The Past Presidents of MRAC

1917 Committee	1958 Douglas Pavek W9FDX
1918 Committee	1959 Ken Eggert W9MOT
1919 L.S. Hillegas Baird 9HO	1960 Arlan Bowen W9QYW
1920 Clarence Crapo 9VD	1961 Russell Burss W9RKP
1921 Daniel Gellerup 9AOE	1962 J. Travis Baird W9VQD
1922 Herbert Wareing 9NY	1963 Royal Miller W9CJO
1923 E. T. Howell 9CVI	1964 Carl Rohde W9ROM
1924 E. T. Howell 9CVI	1965 Carl Rohde W9ROM
1925 Charles Polacheck 9DTK	1966 Bernard Tower K9ZPP
1926 Fred Catel W9DTK	1967 J. Travis Baird W9VQD
1927 F. D. Schunck W9AFZ	1968 J. Travis Baird W9VQD
1928 Donald Seibel W9ESF	1969 Richard Oberholtzer W9ZPV
1929 George Ward W9DCE	1970 Richard Oberholtzer W9ZPV
1930 Louis Wollaeger W9ANA	1971 Richard Oberholtzer W9ZPV
1931 Clarence Crapo W9VD	1972 Jack McLeland W9ATK
1932 Frank Moore W9BVB	1973 Jack McLeland W9ATK
1933 C. A. Rosenbaum W9GHN	1974 Lee Mushel K9WRU
1934 Emil Felber W9RH	1975 Elden Belanger W9MDG
1935 Erwin Kries W9HRM	1976 Elden Belanger W9MDG
1936 George Ruger W9VWG	1977 Elden Belanger W9MDG
1937 Charles Meyer W9GVL	1978 Robert Glamm W9UGN
1938 William Brossman W9EQP	1979 Robert Glamm W9UGN
1939 N. J. Richard W9OUB	1980 C. Reid Whipple K9IWC
1940 Clarence Crapo W9VD	1981 C. Reid Whipple K9IWC
1941 Joseph Kircher W9NRX	1982 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1942 Norman Barnes W9CDY	1983 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1943 Norman Barnes W9CDY	1984 Chris Welton WD9GZL
1944 Norman Barnes W9CDY	1985 Ted Stiller WA9RDI
1945 John Scarvaci W9GIL	1986 Ted Stiller WA9RDI
1946 Ralph Koenig W9RUF	1987 Harry Cieszki KD9AJ
1947 Fred Catel W9DTK	1988 Harry Cieszki KD9AJ
1948 George Bowen W9DWI	1989 Ed Wille W9PWG
1949 Ralph Koenig W9RUF	Start of 2 year terms...
1950 Fred Zolin W9ONY	1990 Ed Wille W9PWG
1951 Fred Zolin W9ONY	1992 Ed Wille W9PWG
1952 Thomas Gettelman W9IZO	1994 Ed Wille W9PWG
1953 Ken Eggert W9MOT	1996 Ed Wille W9PWG
1954 Elden Belanger W9MDG	1998 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1955 Emil Felber W9RH	2000 Dave DeFebo WB9BWP
1956 Raymond Peschek W9LJU	2002 Patrick Moretti W9UQ
1957 Richard Oberholtzer W9ZPV	2004

Many thanks to all the members, officers, family members and friends of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club throughout its illustrious history – one of only a handful of the oldest continuously operating amateur radio clubs in the world.



THE MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB, INC.

The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club

AFFILIATED WITH
THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.



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STATE OF WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

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COMING SOON! (2003) Pictures and documents from throughout the club history – The MRAC Scrapbook!

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Additional material (Part 1A) compiled by Dave DeFebo WB9BWP

Additional notes and comments by Hans Schroeder AE9G

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