



**FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**

# QSO'ER



P.O. Box 5233 Appleton, Wisconsin 54912

[www.fcarc.us](http://www.fcarc.us)

## There's a new repeater in town!

Volume 19, Issue 2

February 2006

The WJ9K 224.50 Mhz repeater is up and running. This repeater has an input of 222.90 Mhz and a PL tone of 100.00 Hz.

The repeater is in Darboy near County N and KK. The power output is 25 watts and the antenna height is 70 feet.

It is open to all licensed Amateur Radio Operators including those with a Novice ticket.

Pass the word around and let's use this band before it is taken away. If you know anyone with an HT or mobile rig with 220 capability - let them know about this new machine.

P.S.- Your QSO'er editors, Tim, Eric and Bernie wish to congratulate Judy (WJ9K) for setting up her own repeater in town!

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### Inside this issue:

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## **Announcing! The 442.175 repeater (CTCSS 100.0 Hz) now offers Echolink.**

*By: Rick, W9RIC*

### **Echolink? What is it?**

It is one of several types of VOIP systems (Voice Over Internet Protocol) that links Amateur Radio equipment over the Internet to other similar equipment around the world. You can read much more about it at [www.Echolink.org](http://www.Echolink.org). You can also find more information on VOIP on page 44 of the February 2003 issue of QST. There is also an article in the May 2005 issue.

### **How do I use it?**

Easy, get on the W9RIC repeater (442.175 CTCSS 100.0 Hz), give your call sign and announce you are accessing Echolink. Using your touch tone key pad, type the node number of the repeater, link, or user you wish to connect to. After you receive the connection announcement make your call or identify yourself on the system you are connected to. When you are finished push the # key on your key pad to disconnect. Once again identify with your call and that you are finished.

### **What is a node and how do I find one?**

Each Echolink station is assigned a node number to identify it on the system. The W9RIC repeater node is **273416**. You can find the node numbers and status of all Echolink stations at [www.echolink.org/link](http://www.echolink.org/link).

### **Do I need an access code to bring up Echolink on the repeater?**

At this time no. Just type the node number of the station you wish to connect to and wait for the announcement that you are connected. An access code may be added in the future if warranted. Accessing Echolink without id'ing before and after using it may result in the offending user being locked out.

### **Do I need to go through a repeater to use Echolink?**

No! You can use your personal computer to talk to stations on Echolink. Just go to the Echolink website, download the software, register and connect a microphone to your soundcard. Note! You must be a licensed Amateur Radio Operator to use Echolink regardless of your method of connecting to it! Your callsign will be verified by the Echolink organization before you are allowed access.

### **You mentioned earlier that Echolink is one of several VOIP systems. What are the others?**

There is IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) which is a Linux based system, eQSO and Wires II. At this time I'm not aware of a gateway that allows one system to be connected to the other.

If you have other questions concerning the use of Echolink on the W9RIC Repeater please contact Rick, W9RIC on the repeater or call him at 735-9565. His email address is [w9ric@tds.net](mailto:w9ric@tds.net). The primary coverage area of the W9RIC repeater is the Fox Cities from Neenah to Kaukauna. The repeater is located in Darboy, east of Appleton. There is a remote receiver located on the near west side of Appleton. It is open to all licensed Amateur Radio Operators.

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# VE Testing Dates

Interested in Amateur (HAM) Radio? Need to upgrade your license? The FCARC can help you with both of these.

With the exception of the November test date, all testing is done at the Red Cross Building at 1302 E. Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton. Test check in is from 8:00 am until 8:30 am. The cost is \$14.00.

Here are the dates for 2006:

February 4th, April 15th, June 10th, August 12th, November 5th.



Wednesday 2 Meter Net		
Net Control Operator schedule		
Feb 22	Tim	KC9FSH
March 1	Guest Operator	
March 8	Bernie	N9YMC
March 15	Tony	AB9IO
March 22	Eric	KG8RF
March 29	Tim	KC9FSH

# New Members

Join me in welcoming the following new member (s) to the club!

- Diane—KC9HRD
- Chuck—WB2LBE
- Mark—KC9IBG
- Tom—KC9IKS

# For Sale

4– 10’ sections of Rohn 45 Tower.

Call Karen WB9ZNA @ {920} 725-7374

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club (W9ZL) invites everyone to tune in on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM on 146.76/R 100hz PL to hear the *Newsline* broadcast.

Then stick around to check into the net immediately afterwards. This is an open forum net and anything can be discussed, including; technical questions, equipment review and for swap and for sale items.

# •Upcoming Events

- Sun. February 19 Annual Club Awards Banquet at the Darboy Club. RSVP REQ'D
- Mon. February 20 FCARC Monthly Club Meeting at the Goodwill Comm. Center
- Mon. February 27 Exec Board Meeting at Goodwill Comm. Center
- Sat. March 12 WI QSO Party
- Mon. March 20 FCARC Monthly Club Meeting at the Goodwill Comm. Center
- Mon. March 27 Exec Board Meeting at Goodwill Comm. Center

## Membership Renewals Reminders

As a reminder only—following is a list of the membership renewals coming up this month and the following months. If you have already renewed—thank you. If not, you can renew with Karen (KC9BMH) at the next club meeting.

N9JHB	1/1/2006
WA6UWY	1/1/2006
ND0L	1/1/2006
KB9LRD	1/1/2006
N0ZKC	1/1/2006
KC9BMH	1/1/2006
KA9LAR	1/1/2006
K9RFI	1/1/2006
KB9WPH	2/1/2006
KB9IME	2/1/2006
AB9IO	2/1/2006
KB2WUN	2/1/2006
ND9DW	2/1/2006
K9JEN	2/1/2006
KB9ENO	3/1/2006
KC9DJQ	3/1/2006
WD0EEI	3/1/2006

## Concretes By Magel



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For more information contact Brian Long (KB9LRD) at 730-8485

## Elmer's Contact List

This is a listing of HAMS who are willing to help other HAMS out in special areas. Feel free to contact these fellow HAMS with any questions:

Call / Name	Specialty Area	Phone #
N1KSN- Andy	CW	720-0617
W9ZC- Bob	Tech. Code	725-7974
N9OEQ- Chuck	HF & VHF Digital Modes	788-5497
N9TNW—Bill	HF & Satellite	739-6827
N9LVS—Dan	FCC Personal Data Changes	205-4899

Have something Ham related to sell? If so, contact Bernie (N9YMC) at [n9ymc@arrl.net](mailto:n9ymc@arrl.net) to arrange for it's insertion in the next issue of this newsletter. We will run it in the newsletter and on-line at [www.fcarc.us](http://www.fcarc.us)

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## Sheboygan's space odyssey; City can compete in the spaceport

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel by DAN EGAN

Sheboygan When Dave Wied looks out the window of the downtown apartment he shares with his wife and two little girls in this blue-collar city of 50,000, he sees an empty parking lot and the backside of an aging auditorium.

A group of ambitious Sheboyganites sees something entirely different when they gaze at the same city block, which holds the Sheboygan Municipal Auditorium and Armory at the edge of downtown. They see the seeds of what could one day blossom into the Great Lakes Aerospace and Science Center and the Sheboygan Spaceport a rocket-launching facility on the shore of Lake Michigan that they hope will one day handle payloads headed for outer space, as well as commercial space travel.

The science center is to be built as an educational center for kids.

The spaceport would be a launch pad for rocket scientists and astronauts.

"I can't see that happening," the 28-year-old Wied said with a giggle. "That seems a little goofy."

Indeed, while lots of people shoot for the moon, they don't actually take aim with rockets. But that is exactly what backers of this seemingly improbable cause are up to.

Draft legislation has passed through a state Senate committee as well as the Joint Committee on Finance and is now arcing toward a full vote in the Senate. It would create the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority, a nine-member body appointed by the governor as well as Senate and Assembly leaders that could sell up to \$100 million in bonds and have the right of eminent domain to, presumably, claim the needed property to build a launch facility.

The hope is to capture a piece of a burgeoning private rocket market and to get aboard the space tourism business that boosters expect to emerge in the coming years. There is no reason, they argue, that Sheboygan could not compete with states like New Mexico, Oklahoma and Florida in the spaceport business.

"We see the potential of Wisconsin being the north-central regional spaceport in the U.S.," said George French, president of Rocketplane Ltd, a firm developing a re-usable spaceship from a modified private jet that is equipped with a rocket.

"Chicago would probably love to have this," added French, who also owns a Green Bay billboard and outdoor sign company. "But they have too many people and too congested of airspace."

French said Sheboygan has several things going for it in the space department proximity to a big body of water in case something goes wrong, a big block of restricted airspace (the legacy of an anti-aircraft training range once located on a nearby bluff overlooking the lake), and safety facilities he notes the old brick Coast Guard station right across the street from the auditorium.

"Obviously," he says, "it's not a done deal."

Not everyone shares French's enthusiasm and optimism.

"I voted against it," said Sen. Russ Decker (D-Schofield). "There are more pressing needs in the state of Wisconsin than some George Jetson initiative that started with a pipe dream."

No laughing matter

If the idea of rocketing into space from inside Sheboygan city limits leaves you snickering, you probably don't have a PhD in aero-astro engineering.

*Continued on page 7*

## **Sheboygan's space odyssey; City can compete in the spaceport**

Eric Rice does, and he says the idea "absolutely" makes sense.

"I expect it will happen within a few years," said Rice, founder and president of Madison-based Orbital Technologies Corp., a 55-employee firm that bills itself as "Wisconsin's aerospace research and product development leader." The company has, according to its Web site, landed more than \$80 million in government contracts since its founding in 1988.

"Initially, it's probably going to be sounding rockets and small little payloads for experiments, but that's how things start," he said.

Rice said the open airspace and water next to Sheboygan are key elements for a launch facility. As for Sheboygan being too cold, he said the Russians have launched at latitudes farther north.

"We hope to launch up there some day," he said.

Rice notes that sub orbital rockets have in fact already launched from the Sheboygan lakeshore. Each spring for the past decade, Midwestern high school students have descended on Sheboygan for the annual Rockets for Schools program. The event is an opportunity for the budding engineers to hone their launch skills with small-scale rockets. But some years, professionals from Florida have shown up with much bigger rockets that blast about 60 miles into the sky.

Gary Dikkers, airspace manager for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, said the state has granted special authorization for those launches, which take place on a pier across the street from the auditorium.

"The place that they use for Rockets for School is already designated (by the state) as a spaceport," Dikkers said.

But wouldn't the blast from the mammoth rockets needed to launch a manned space flight turn downtown Sheboygan into a lump of melted glass?

"We're not talking about Titan IIIs or anything," said James Testwuide, a local businessman. "We're not talking huge blast areas."

Testwuide said the program could start with rockets not much bigger than some of the bigger rockets launched at the Rockets for Schools events.

And, he said, the manned flights likely would not be Space Shuttle-style vertical launches, but rather runway launches with winged vehicles that go vertical with a rocket blast when they reach altitudes around 40,000 feet.

That might take a special runway, which Testwuide said could, perhaps, someday be built out in Lake Michigan, which is rather shallow off the city of Sheboygan.

"It isn't a deep part of the lake," said former Lt. Governor Margaret Farrow, who has a quarter-century of experience sailing Lake Michigan with her family. "I know that to be a fact from experience."

Farrow has thrown her support behind the proposal.

"I know it's easy to laugh about, but they're serious," she said. "It's another frontier, and we shouldn't overlook the chance.

"Chuck Ledin, director of the Office of the Great Lakes for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, said he is only vaguely familiar with the idea but did not automatically dismiss the concept of building a launch facility in the lake, or using it for splashdowns, planned or otherwise.

"We'd have to find out what the issues are," he says. "It would be a totally new thing for us."

*Continued on page 9*

## . Slow Scan TV

*By: Tim, KC9FSH*

After hearing about Brian, KB9LRD and Steve, N9SGG, using SSTV on 2 meters I instantly wanted to try it out. I had been wanting to try it out since Nate, KB9RQL was showing me some SSTV operations he was performing and one of the HF bands a couple of years ago.

For those of you who don't know Slow Scan TV or more commonly known as SSTV, is simply the sending of images between two amateur stations. Most of the time this takes place on HF on 15 and 20 meters. However, Brian and Steve wanted to try something different by using SSTV on VHF. This was something I was hoping someone would try doing since SSTV has for one reason or another interested me since the time KB9RQL showed me.

There are many different "modes" to choose from while using SSTV. The ones that Brian and Steve tried were Scottie S1 and S2 along with Robot 36. They had successfully set-up both of their stations and was able to make a contact on 145.655, which falls into the "experimental" portion of the 2 meter band.

A few days later I wanted to give it a shot. I already had MMSSTV installed on my computer so that part was already taken care of.. To get the audio going into the computer from the radio I simply plugged in a cable into the external speaker port on my IC-207h. From there I had the cable run into my Optimus SSM-1750 soundboard, I used to run an internet radio station so I just happened to have this around. By having the received audio run through my soundboard I was able to control the incoming audio to help keep it from sending too much audio back into my computers soundcard. From the soundboard I ran a cable from the output of that to the Line In on my soundcard.

To transmit we all simply just held the microphone about an inch away from the computer speakers. The biggest downfall to this is that if someone decides to interrupt you and start talking to you in the background it will probably mess up your signal. Also dogs barking in the background also does this, not that I would know from experience or anything.

This way worked well for us temporarily but I think that in the long run it would get pretty annoying running a SSTV station this way. There are commercial interface available but none that are really worth the price, in my opinion. I found some quite simple plans for a sound card interface on <http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html>. This seems like an easy way to solve this issue. I have not built this yet but I am going to try within the next few weeks or months.

So if you want to give SSTV a shot just tune to 145.660 and give it a try. One of the things that I have read and will agree with is that you should always transmit voice before you transmit the SSTV data. This will allow other possible monitoring station fire up their SSTV programs and maybe even make a QSO with you. Also you should always let the other station know how the image came though for you, using voice.

We will be setting up a digital station at Field Day this year on HF, mainly 20 meters, to transmit recent pictures from the various Field Day activities. This will give us an extra 100 bonus points.

I personally use MMSSTV which can be found at: <http://mmhamsoft.ham-radio.ch/>

Some example images that I received from KB9LRD can be found on the next page.

I look forward to hearing your SSTV transmission on 145.660!



**•Sheboygan's space odyssey; City can compete in the spaceport**

Hopes of private, federal funds

The legislation, as proposed, does not call for spending any taxpayer dollars on the enterprise. The aerospace authority would be allowed to issue revenue bonds, which the bill sponsors insist would not leave taxpayers on the hook if they could not be paid off.

"They can't issue any bonds unless they can prove they can pay them off through programs that are running," said Eric Schutt, chief of staff for Sen. Joe Leibham, (R-Sheboygan).

Schutt added that the Great Lakes Aerospace and Science Center, to be located at the site of the current auditorium, is a separate, local effort intended to educate school kids and relies primarily on private funds.

Decker isn't so convinced state taxpayers wouldn't be ultimately responsible for the debts of an authority established by the legislature, and he said any space odysseys that begin in Sheboygan should be entirely privately funded.

But the idea behind creating the authority now, said Testwuide, is to establish a means to capture potential federal funds to further explore the possibility of building the spaceport.

Brenda Krainik works across the street from the armory- auditorium and knows only a little about what is being proposed for her neighborhood. She likes the idea of a learning center for kids across the street. She's a bit more dubious about the rocket launches.

But she has seen communities shoot for the moon before; she used to live in neighboring Manitowoc, home of a World War II submarine.

Landing that sub was no small task.

"That definitely was a challenge," she said. "What they said they couldn't do, they did."

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