

Annual Report for 2024

Lake Region Amateur Radio Club



Membership: At the end of 2024, the club had 34 full members with 6 of these being life members.

Officers: President - Dwight, KD0OIX; Vice President – Ross, N0MSS; Secretary – Randy, KB0BVR; Treasurer - Neil, AE0HK; Trustee - Tom, N0GQA

Club license: The club license was renewed through the efforts of Tom, N0GQA, the newly appointed Trustee for the club in 2024.

Community Activities

STEM Day for Kids: This was held at the West Otter Tail County Fair on 19 July 2024. The club set up a radio and let people make a contact on the radio. We also used the 1x1 call of KOY during the event. Six club members plus 1 licensed guest participated. Several kids got onto either an HF radio or a VHF HT and made contacts. We also handed out flyers and talked about amateur radio to interested people. We have been told that we will be invited back next year.

Hoot Lake Triathlon: The club provided communication around the racecourse on the morning of 4 August 2024 and kept the Race Directors informed of events out on the racecourse. Seven club members participated in the event. We have been told that we will be invited back next year.

Dalton Threshers Show: Club members helped organize the parade on the morning of 7 Sep 2024. We also used HTs to relay information along the road during the organizing of the floats prior to the start of the parade. Eight club members helped with the event.

School Club Roundup: Jesse, KM0JPR, got permission to set-up a temporary radio station in the Community Education Classroom during the week of 21-25 October 2024. Four students from Kennedy Secondary School staffed the radio for a total of 10 hours after school. Six club members came by the stations to offer encouragement or advice to the kids. A write-up about the event was included in the 27 November 2024 issue of ARRL Club News.

Getting the Word Out: Jesse, KM0JPR, manages the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/k0qik>) and the web site (<https://www.k0qik.net/>) for the club. Dwight, KD0OIX, manages the club page at QRZ (<https://www.qrz.com/db/K0QIK>). The club printed business cards with information about the club; the cards were given to members to use to inform people about the club.

Club Activities

Repeaters: The club maintained four active repeaters during 2024 in Otter Tail County. **146.640**, -- ; **147.285**, 123.0; **444.975**, 123.0; **147.150**, 123.0. The club also maintains an Allstar node, 51502.

Nets: The club currently hosts 3 weekly nets and 1 monthly net. 1) Sunday evening at 19:00 local time on the 147.150 repeater that serves to share information among members in eastern Otter Tail County; 2) Sunday evening at 19:30 local time on the 146.640 repeater that serves to share information among club members across Otter Tail County and surrounding area; 3) Saturday morning at 09:30 local time on the 147.285 repeater that is primarily to give newly license hams a chance to get on the air; and 4) the first Wednesday of the month at 13:00 local time on the 146.640 repeater to share information about the weather.

Technician Class: After running the class in Fall 2023, it was decided that we needed one more weekly session. The class was expanded to include 6 2-hour sessions with VE testing the week after the class. Three students were enrolled in the spring and three in the fall. A total of 3 students earned their license. For 2025, the class will be offered in the fall only.

VE sessions: The club hosted two VE sessions (18 May and 9 November) to support the technician class. One other proposed session (24 Aug) was short VEs and was not scheduled at ARRL. It was discussed at a club meeting that with the availability of online testing and the small pool of potential examinees that it was not realistic to schedule 4 test sessions per year. Thus, the club is not going to attempt to become field stocked. Perhaps schedule one test in the summer and one at the end of the technician class in the fall. The club currently has 8 VEs among the members of the club (5 extra and 3 general).

Social Gatherings: The club had a Holiday Celebration supper at the American Legion on 6 January 2024. The club had two meetings to share information and equipment ideas around the Parks-on-the-Air (POTA) program; one at Delagoon Park on 6 April 2024 and one at the Community Arena parking area on 19 October 2024. The club also has a monthly “coffee and ham radio” gathering at Toast on the 4th Saturday of the month. Typically attended by 6 to 10 members or guests.

Build a J-pole antenna: The club met at the pavilion near the BMX track on 18 April 2024 to build a dual-band J-pole antenna based on a design by Bob, KA0Q. This was attended by 12 club members plus 4 family guests.

Special Event Stations NOP: The club hosted the 1x1 call of NOP to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Minnesota State Parks in April 1891.

Field Day: Field Day was on the lawn of the Otter Tail County Historical Society on 22-23 June 2024. We ran as a 2-alpha station with one station on SSB and the other running FT8. Sixteen people participated including club members and visitors from nearby clubs.

Build a 49:1 unun: The club met in the wood-working shop at the Community Education Center on 14 September 2024 to build 49:1 ununs for EFHW antennas. Kits from HF Kits were used in the project. This was attended by 9 club members plus 1 family guest. Several other members also bought kits but could not attend the build.

North Star Radio Convention: The club was a financial sponsor (\$50.00) of the North Star Radio Convention on 5 October 2024. As such, we got a small ad in the program for the conference. Two club members attended the conference and Dwight, KD0OIX, gave a presentation on “Map Resources for Minnesota Activators.”

Presentations to the club during club meetings:

13 Jan 2024 – “Restoring local repeaters” by Rod, NORJO and Tom, N0GQA

10 Feb 2024 - “Putting connectors on COAX cable: a hands-on workshop” by Ross, N0MSS

9 Mar 2024 -- “Operating a home station remotely” by Tyler, K00TC

8 Jun 2024- “Solar Activity and Propagation” by Dwight, KD0OIX

9 Nov 2024 - “Activating Alcatraz” by Shaun, KF0IBC

Compiled by Dwight, KD0OIX

17 December 2024