



# Yellow Thunder.org Amateur Radio Club

Repeater:147.315 D-Star:145.315 Baraboo, WI



WB9FDZ  
PO Box 202  
Baraboo, WI 53913

Dec, 2017

Dear YTARC member,

Greetings and good day! Enclosed you will find a membership renewal form. Dues are still only \$20.00. Please continue to support *your* organization by renewing your membership. Your dues help maintain the club repeaters as well as other functions of the club. Please make an effort to come to the club meetings. A club cannot survive without active participation.

### Meetings

Club meetings continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month in the Baraboo EOC Meeting Room of the Baraboo City Services Building (450 Roundhouse Court). The meetings start at 7:00 pm sharp. The January, April, July, and October meeting nights will be combined with the Sauk County ARES/RACES group.

The meeting dates for 2018 are: Tuesday, Jan. 2nd / Feb. 6th / March 6th / April 3rd / May 1st / June 5th / July 3rd / Aug. 7th / Sept. 4th / Oct. 2nd / Nov. 6th / and Dec. 4th.

In 2016, we gave away two portable radios as door prizes at two separate, randomly chosen meetings. At those two meetings, those (non-board) members in attendance were entered into a drawing and a winner was randomly selected. At one randomly chosen meeting, all (non-board) members in attendance received a free membership for the 2017 calendar year. In 2017 we didn't do these drawings but we plan to do some similar prize giveaways at random meetings in 2018 so plan to attend as much as possible to increase your chances at receiving a great prize.

It's been great to see some new faces at meetings this year! We've had several presentations put on by members at various meetings throughout the year in which an area of interest in the the hobby has caught their attention. Recently, Joe Mayenshien (WB9SBD) has given presentations on a home-made "dummy" load and the new FT8 soundcard digital mode that took the HF bands by storm this year. Dave Parker (WB9WHG) also gave a presentation on his Flex SDR radio at the March meeting. We want to have more presentations at our meetings in 2018! If you have any ideas for, or would like to do a presentation at one of our meetings next year, please send an email to Dave Parker (WB9WHG) at [wb9whg@yellowthunder.org](mailto:wb9whg@yellowthunder.org) with your suggestions.

### Field Day

Field Day was a success once again. It was great to have families involved and interest from many people. This year we had Joe's (WB9SBD) home-brew multi-band vertical HF antenna up and put up the big loop antenna in the field as the main antennas for the operating efforts and made many contacts with them. Despite cold temperatures this year, we made quite a few contacts thanks to Joe Mayenshien (WB9SBD) as well as Dave Parker (WB9WHG) who made some contacts on CW and Aaron Diers (KC0WKP) and Dave Spearing (KB9CSW) who made a great number of contacts on digital modes like PSK31.



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## Sunday Night Net

Don't forget, on Sunday evenings, at 8:00pm, we have the "Sunday Night Net" on our analog repeater - 147.315. We still have the automated system working through the repeater's Allstar computer which downloads and prepares the weekly versions of our choice of either the ARRL Audio News, Amateur Radio Newline, the RAIN Report, or even a custom audio file each week. After check-ins and announcements, we air the current edition of the chosen audio program. Thanks to Steve Schulze (N9UDO) and Drew Smith (KC9LJK) of our Technical Committee for keeping this system up and running.

## Member Benefits:

Remember that the club owns an MFJ-259B antenna analyzer for all your antenna project needs. Members are able to check out the analyzer under the following guidelines:

- Don (k9jyx@yellowthunder.org) is the trustee for the analyzer. It can be checked out for a period of 2 weeks by club members only. The check-out can be renewed for 2 more weeks, at the discretion of Don (K9JYX).

The club also owns an Icom IC-718 HF radio, along with an LDG auto tuner and Signalink device for working soundcard digital modes available for member use.

The radio was purchased for use during special event stations or other club activities, including Field Day. Club members holding general class licenses or higher can check these out for their use. We encourage our new general class holders to check out the radio and get on HF and see the fun in operating SSB and even working DX. A SSB filter has been installed so the radio will perform even better during receive operations. The same guidelines will apply to the HF rig as for the antenna analyzer.

## Important dates:

- Wisconsin QSO Party - Sunday, March 11th (1 pm to 8 pm CDT) - We are planning on participating as a club, from our home stations. We also want to present this as an opportunity for some of our newer hams to guest-operate, and see what fun it can be!
- June 23rd & 24th – Field Day, high atop the Baraboo bluffs at Owen Park, in Columbia County. Set-up and camping starts Friday night the 22nd. Tom, N9PQJ, has been heading up our Field Day exercise for many years, but may not be able to attend this year - we are looking for someone who could help us get organized this year.
- August 17th-18th-19th - The 55th annual Badger Steam & Gas Engine Club show (*possible special event station opportunity - stay tuned for details*)
- August 25th – Twenty-second annual Circus City Swapfest at the Badger Steam & Gas Engine Show grounds, north of Baraboo
- September 4th – Nomination of club officers. Election to be held at October 2nd meeting

## Swapfest:



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The Circus City Swapfest, held in August, was again a success. We would like to sincerely thank Brad Pointon of Pointon Communications in Baraboo for his donation of our grand prizes again this year. A great number of the vendor tables were sold and attendance was about the same as in past years. Our 2018 swapfest will be Saturday, August 25th at the Badger Steam and Gas Engine show grounds north of Baraboo. Be sure to mark your calendars. Tailgating will be available as well as another VE exam session. This is a large venue and we need all the help we can get for setup and tear-down, as well as during the fest.

### Repeaters

The club repeaters were on the air again this year as some of the premier repeaters for the area. The 147.315 repeater was on the air without issue this year. The machine provides a critical link directly to the Milwaukee/Sullivan weather office in support of the SULCOM severe weather spotting program. The DStar repeater is still on the air as well. We invite all D-Star users from the area to make use of the D-Star repeater. For more information on the D-Star system, please visit our website at [www.yellowthunder.org](http://www.yellowthunder.org).

### Website

We have been working on revamping the club website for the past couple of years. Club member Aaron Diers (KC0WKP) got us rolling with the new site and he and President Tom Harrison (N9PQJ) have been working on adding content and making updates and changes since the launch. Visit the website at [www.yellowthunder.org](http://www.yellowthunder.org) for updated content, including monthly meeting minutes. If you are interested in giving your input on anything related to the site, please contact Tom at [n9pqj@yellowthunder.org](mailto:n9pqj@yellowthunder.org).

### Leadership

Club Vice President Drew Smith (KC9LJK) did not run for renomination in the club officer election held at the October meeting due to other time commitments. We're happy to welcome long-time member Dave Parker (WB9WHG) as the newly-elected Vice President of your Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club.

Remember that this is your club. You paid for the privilege to join, so your participation is needed and most welcome. An active club is a good club.

Wishing you a happy and safe new year,

Respectfully,

Your Yellow Thunder Board:

Tom Harrison, N9PQJ, President  
Dave Parker, WB9WHG, Vice President  
Matt Noll, KC9UPE, Secretary  
Don Evenson, K9JYX, Treasurer  
Dave Spearing, KB9CSW, Member at Large



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*Join us for the annual Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Holiday party!*

*Saturday, January 13th, 2018*

We will again be at the River's Edge Pub & Grub just outside of Wisconsin Dells on County Rd A. Social hour will take place at 5:30 and then we'll sit down to eat at 6:30. Plan to order off of the menu when we're seated. We hope you all can attend!

Please RSVP to President Tom Harrison (N9PQJ) no later than January 7th if you plan to attend so we can get a count to the restaurant in advance.

