



Yellow Thunder.org Amateur Radio Club

Repeater:147.315 D-Star:145.315 Baraboo, WI



WB9FDZ
PO Box 202
Baraboo, WI

Dear YTARC member,

Dec, 2025

Greetings! Enclosed you will find a membership renewal form. Dues are still only \$20.00. Please continue to support **your** organization by renewing your membership. You can also renew your membership at Ham Club Online. Your dues help maintain the club repeaters as well as other functions of the club. Please make an effort to attend club meetings. A club cannot survive without active participation.

Meetings:

We have been able to hold most of our meetings this year in-person. We are still maintaining the club Zoom subscription and provide the ability to attend meetings virtually when technology cooperates.

We are planning to continue in-person meetings in 2026, so long as conditions allow it. **NEW** Meeting nights are scheduled for the first Monday of each month at 7pm and take place at the Baraboo City Services Building at 450 Roundhouse Ct, however, we plan to meet via Zoom whenever an in-person meeting is not possible.

NEW: The meeting dates for 2026 are: Monday, Jan. 5th / Feb. 2nd / March 2nd / April 6th / May 4th / June 1st / July 6th / Aug. 3rd / Sept. 8th / Oct. 5th / Nov. 2nd / and Dec. 7th.

If you have any ideas for, or would like to do a presentation at one of our meetings next year, please let us know!

POTA:

This year the club participated in Parks On The Air we did 2 activations. We activated Devils Lake State Park in Sauk County and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The trail was located inside of Devils Lake State Park.



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Field Day:

Field Day was active this year at the normal spot up at Owen Memorial Park and great efforts to make contacts were made. We're looking forward to Field Day 2026!

Sunday Night Net:

At 7:30pm on Sundays, we have the "Sunday Night Net" on our analog repeater - 147.315. We are still running the "ARRL Audio News" on the net each week via the Allstar computer after check-ins and announcements.

Member Benefits:

The club still owns an Icom IC-718 HF radio, along with an LDG auto tuner and Signalink device for working soundcard digital modes. 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. We also have a crimping tool and some connectors for member use. Coax connectors are kept with the kit and are available for purchase as needed.

Important dates:

- Winter Field Day – January 24th & 25th – We are planning on participating as a club from the Baraboo City Services Building at 450 Roundhouse Ct or the Lake Delton Fire station at 45 Miller Dr. Watch your email for updates or tune in to the Sunday night nets.
- Wisconsin QSO Party – Sunday, March 15th (1 pm to 8 pm CDT) - We are planning on participating as a club, from our home stations.
- ARRL Field Day – June 27th & 28th – high atop the Baraboo bluffs at Owen Park, in Columbia County. Set-up and camping starts Friday night on the 26th.
- September 8th – Nomination of club officers. Election to be held at the October 5th meeting
- Circus City Swapfest – Aug 29th - (8am to 11:30am) near Baraboo, WI at the Badger Steam & Gas Engine show grounds on S3347 Sand Rd.



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Swapfest:

We were able to pull off a good fest in 2025! We saw fairly average numbers of attendees. The VE team did a great job for us in allowing some folks to sit down and take licensing exams. Thanks to some generous donors, we were able to give away some door prizes, including an Icom IC-V3500 radio donated by Brad, KB9VMC, of Pointon Communications. We'll see you in 2026 for the next one!

Repeaters:

The club repeaters were on the air again this year as some of the premier repeaters for the area. The analog repeater provides a critical link directly to the Milwaukee/Sullivan weather office in support of the SULCOM severe weather spotting program. The D-Star 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. As a reminder, there is a D-Star net on Sunday at 9:00 pm, and Wednesday at 7:00 pm. The repeater is set up to automatically link to the Wisconsin statewide reflector REF019B after 15 minutes of inactivity. With a lot of the WI Interstate Network nodes being migrated to D-star nodes, our repeater provides local access to a lot of statewide activity. For more information on the D-Star system, or to become a registered user, please visit our website at www.yellowthunder.org. **NEW** we've had some big updates and changes this year on the analog repeater with the installation of a new repeater controller in September, replacing the S-COM controller. This new controller will allow us to make updates and changes to the operation of the machine as needed via a graphical interface. Setup of the regular announcements, automatic IDs, and other features are underway. We are working to get the Allstar and Echolink functionality back in operation and hope to have that available very soon. A failure of the backup battery and UPS system for the repeater has also been identified and will be addressed in the coming months.



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Website:

Visit the website at www.yellowthunder.org for updated content. Information needed to join the monthly meetings via Zoom can be found on the YTARC Calendar. If you are interested in giving your input on anything related to the site, please contact Mathew at kd9dzt@yellowthunder.org.

Leadership:

We had a change in leadership this year. Our Secretary, Ray Sommerfeldt (KD9LNZ), stepped down. Tammy Conley (KE9BUP) replaced Ray as Secretary.

Here's a reminder 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:

Mathew Toussaint, KD9DZT, President
Daniel Brown, WX9E, Vice President
Tammy Conley, KE9BUP, Secretary
Patrick Kirchenwitz, W9PCK, Treasurer
Dave Spearing, KB9CSW, Member at Large