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# Aurora '18

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Spring is here, which means it is time to get ready for **Aurora '18!** Our **35<sup>th</sup>** annual gathering will be held on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, with activities starting at 9:00 AM. Jon, WØZQ, is lining up a great program for us, and I am looking forward to what should be a great conference. This announcement is being distributed primarily via the NLRs Reflector and website. Please pass the information along to others in your area, especially any new hams that might have an interest in VHF.

## Online Registration

We have an actual online registration form this year! I would really appreciate it if everyone would try to make use of this, as the information will go directly into the spreadsheet that I need to use to wrap up the fees, dues and donations that we collect. You still have the option of paying by PayPal, via check, or in person at the conference. Register now – just go to:

**<https://tinyurl.com/Aurora18>**

## Great Location

We will be at the familiar location we have used for many years, now called **Community of Grace Lutheran Church, 4000 Linden Street, White Bear Lake, MN**. It is located on the east side of Highway 61, about 2 miles north of I-694. Please remember that we are guests here, and help us to leave everything as we found it, *inside and out!*

## Deals for New Attendees and Families

Anyone who has not previously attended an Aurora conference will get a special registration rate - FREE! Just pre-register and check the box, or note it with your online registration. There is also a **FAMILY RATE** of \$7 for two or more from an immediate family.

## Door Prizes!

Courtesy of the ARRL we have three very nice door prizes that will be awarded during the afternoon session. You won't need to be present, but you do need to be registered to win! One of the door prizes each year is linked to the number of entries submitted for the ARRL VHF contests, so always make it a point to participate and send in a log!

## Antenna Gain Measurements

Weather permitting, we have the ability to test antennas on bands from 2 meters through 24 GHz. This is a great chance to see if your homebrew antenna is really as good as you think it is, or to check out the specs on a commercial antenna. Results from previous years can be found on the NLRs web page. If there is rain, or standing water, measuring will not take place.

**We are also asking that you let us know what antennas you are bringing.** Please note the following:

We cannot test 6m antennas... sorry. The test frequencies are: 144.2; 222.1; 432.1; 902.1; 1296.1; 2304.1; 3465.1; 5760.1; 10368; 24GHz. Frequencies other than these may not be available due to lack of sources or calibrated reference antennas (i.e., can't accurately test 146 or 446 as the reference antenna hasn't been calibrated there). In general, we do NOT do "tweaking" or adjustments; we measure.

As soon after 9AM as we can get started, we start with 2m on the VHF range and 2304MHz on the microwave range. We work our way UP the bands. (Sometimes we can run the two ranges at the same time: VHF (2m - 1296) and microwave (2304MHz to 10GHz). Sometimes we cannot.) Remember, you are expected to participate in the testing: getting the antenna on the test pole, holding it, taking it off, etc. Your help makes everything run faster and allows us to measure more antennas in the limited time we have available.

(This form will be used on the range for data collection and records)

FOR EACH ANTENNA YOU ARE BRINGING, please let us know by e-mail [wa2voi (at) mninter (dot) net]:

- Name:
- Call:
- Band:
- Type: (yagi, log, horn, dish (& feed type), misc (describe))
- Commercial / Homebrew:
- Previously tested:

(If there are a lot of antennas to be tested, we give preference to those that have not been tested before.)

## ARRL Award Checking

Card checking for all ARRL awards DC to Light will be available at **Aurora '18**. Mike, WØVTT, is authorized as a card checker for VUCC and ARRL HF awards (DXCC including 160M) and has volunteered to check cards at the conference. Please contact Mike at [mgcizek\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:mgcizek(at)gmail(dot)com) with any questions. Donn, WA2VOI, is also often available to check cards for VUCC at the monthly breakfast. In either case, be sure to have the current forms filled out, cards sorted, fees, and a stamped envelope to forward your application to ARRL.

## 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Central States VHF Conference

Many NLRs members travel to Central States each year. The 2018 Conference will in Wichita, Kansas, July 26-29. Central States is *the* major VHF gathering in North America; many NLRs members are very involved with the organization. We have hosted the 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> conferences. Papers and presentations are needed for this year: please contact Donn Baker, WA2VOI or Kent Britain, WA5VJB. More information on the conference will be found at: [www.csvhfs.org](http://www.csvhfs.org)

## Microwave Update

Microwave Update is the premier microwave conference in North America. NLRsers also attend, and have hosted, MUD. The 2018 version will be in Dayton, Ohio, October 11-14. Find more info at: [www.MicrowaveUpdate.org](http://www.MicrowaveUpdate.org)

## NLRS E-mail Reflector

The NLRS e-mail reflector reaches most active VHFers in the region. It is a great way to spread news quickly across the region. Traffic is generally light and will not overwhelm your In-box. If you prefer, you can also receive the same messages in a single daily email in digest form. If you are not subscribed, you may do so from this web page:

<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/nlrs>

Join, and keep up to date on the latest news around the region.

At **Aurora '18** we will again collect money to send to Scott at QTH.net to help him out with his expenses. He provides a wonderful service to us. If you appreciate the Reflector and can't make it to **Aurora '18**, send a contribution with your NLRS dues and we'll forward it.

## NLRS Dues Due

NLRS annual dues of \$5 can be paid with your registration if you haven't paid them already. The annual dues are unrelated to the \$5 fee for **Aurora '18**, which goes to defray the expenses of putting on the conference (a rate unchanged in 35 years, I might add!). There is a spot on the registration form to indicate dues payment, and you can combine dues with your registration fee and I will split them out and pass them to the Treasurer.

After the conference, please send any dues directly to the NLRS Treasurer (by check only, please!):

Janice Hoettels, KA9VVQ  
7623 Teal Bay  
Woodbury, MN 55125

## Tentative Schedule for **Aurora '18**

0900 - 1130	Antenna range (WX permitting), eyeball QSOs & tailgating
1200 - 1300	LUNCH BREAK (on your own)
1300 - 1730	Talks & NLRS meeting. Presentations to include:

- WFØT Lightwave communication
- ACØRA Roving on 6M with MSK144 (checkout the morning demo in the parking lot)
- W9FZ Eclipsomania: recap of Nebraska adventures in the 2017 10GHz Contest
- WØZQ NLRS business meeting
- KØCQ Waveguide: butting WR90 to WR62 & computing guide wavelengths outside normal freq range
- WØZQ Product review: Trinity Power USB Sig Gen TPI-1001-B (35-4400MHz) w/ Scalar Analyzer

## NLRS Website ... [www.nlrs.org](http://www.nlrs.org)

Check the NLRS website for information on beacons, nets, upcoming events, and useful links. If you know of other information that should be included, contact WØZQ.

## NLRS Business Meeting

**Aurora '18** also serves as the annual business meeting for NLRS. The tentative agenda is listed below; if you know of other matters that should be considered, please contact Jon, WØZQ.

### Call to Order

- Reading of the clubs preamble
- Reading of last year's meeting minutes

### Treasurers, Committee, and Other Reports

- Treasurer's report
- Assistance to Silent Keys
- NLRS website and reflector
- Sunday night nets
- ARRL VUAC update

### Old Business

### New Business

- CSVHFS Conference
- Club News

### Elections

### Open business

- Club donations
- Other open business

### Awards Presentation

- Wesslund Award presentation

### Adjourn

## NLRS Breakfasts

A schedule of breakfast dates for the remainder of the year is attached, usually the second Saturday of the month, except for June and September to avoid the VHF contests. Odd-numbered months are at the Old Country Buffet in Burnsville, even-numbered months at the Golden Corral in Maplewood. People generally gather around 8:15-8:45 AM and disperse around 10:00. All are welcome, whether you want to eat or not!

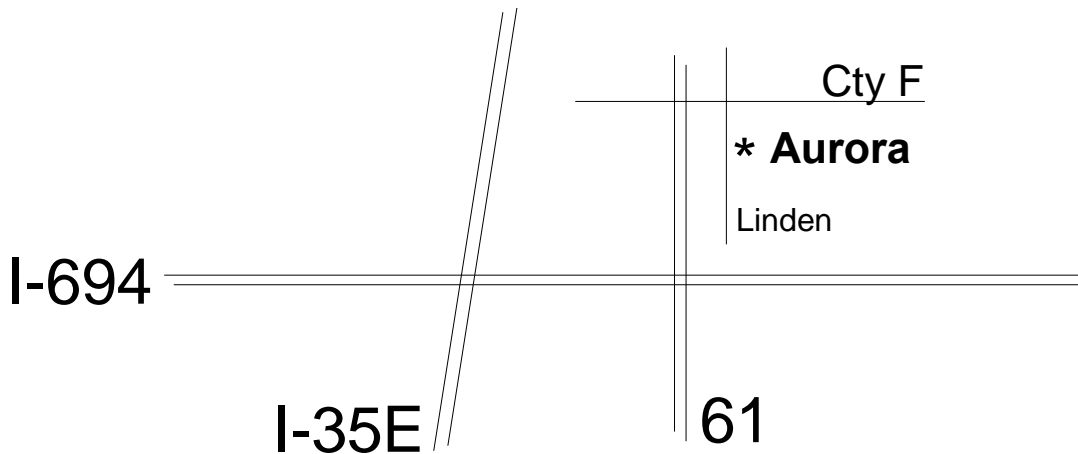
## VHF & Up Events

April 9	144 Sprint
April 14	NLRS Breakfast – Golden Corral, Maplewood
April 17	222 Sprint
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Aurora '18</b>
April 25	432 Sprint
May 5	902 & Up Sprint
May 5-6	SBMS 2GHz & Up Contest
May 12	NLRS Breakfast – Old Country Buffet, Burnsville
May 13	6M Sprint
May 19-21	Dayton Hamvention
June 2	NLRS breakfast - Golden Corral, Maplewood
June 9-11	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
June 23-24	ARRL Field Day
July 14	NLRS breakfast – Old Country Buffet, Burnsville
July 21-22	CQWW VHF Contest
<b>July 26-29</b>	<b>Central States VHF Conference</b>
Aug 4-5	222 MHz & Up Distance Contest & Rovermania!
Aug 11	NLRS breakfast - Golden Corral, Maplewood
Aug 18-19	ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest
Sept 1	NLRS breakfast - Old Country Buffet, Burnsville
Sept 8-10	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
Sept 15-16	ARRL 10GHz & Up Contest
Sept 29-30	Int'l EME Competition (2.3 GHz+)
Oct 13	NLRS breakfast - Golden Corral, Maplewood
Oct 11-14	Microwave Update
Oct 27-28	EME Contest, 50-1296 (part 1)
Nov 10	NLRS breakfast – Old Country Buffet, Burnsville
Nov 24-25	EME Contest, 50-1296 (part 2)
Dec 8	NLRS breakfast - Golden Corral, Maplewood

Register now! Just go to: <https://tinyurl.com/Aurora18>

# Aurora '18

To Aurora '18: I-694 to Hwy 61, north on 61 to County Road F. Turn right on Cty F, and immediately right again on Linden. Enter from the large parking lot on the east side of First Lutheran Church.



Please register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/Aurora18>

If you wish to mail your payment, send to:

**Paul Husby**  
**1700 Ridgewood Ln S**  
**Roseville, MN 55113-5624**

(PLEASE pre-register! It helps us plan for the number of people attending, and saves everyone time at the conference. Thanks!)

*After the registration date, please send dues directly to the NLRs Treasurer.*