

T H E K E Y

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League



Repeater

146.970 PL 131.8



RARC Net

The club's weekly net is 8 p.m. Sundays on the 146.970 repeater.



Program

Public Service: ARES/RACES



Club meetings

Club meetings are 7 p.m., Tuesday, at Gundersen/Lutheran in La Crosse. They will be in meeting room 1 on the lower level of the clinic.

"Meeting of Elmers," advice, discussion and help is at 6 p.m. in the conference room in the Gundersen Clinic.

JOTA operations planned

By Nate Balk, KC9ZXK



I am a Scout leader and a Ham and I plan to run a JOTA Jamboree On The Air station for the Gateway Area Council. I will be running station K2BSA/9 from Camp

Decorah, north of Holmen, on Saturday Oct. 18, for Scouts in the area that want to come out and get on the air.

Our council encompasses an area from Prairie du Chien to the south, Mondovi to the north, Houston to the west and Mauston to the east.

I would like you, members of the local ham community, to come to

Camp Decorah and operate, helping Scouts to get on the air for help Saturday Oct. 18.

The more operators that would be willing to come out, the more modes and bands we can operate on and give the boys a better chance to make contacts. I would

really like to have someone proficient at CW and a digital mode or two. We have enough room for club trailers, portable towers, huge wire antennas, RV's and anything else that you would like to use.

If you would be willing to spend a few hours or the whole day, helping Scouts make contacts with other Scouts around the world, let me know.



Some links with JOTA information.

http://www.arrrl.org/jamboree_on_the_air_jota

http://www.scouting.org/jota/operators_guides.aspx

<http://www.k2bsa.net/jota/>

Field Day tips from contesters

By Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE

What kind of Field Day will you have this year? Are you ready to raise the bar on your operating performance? A recent Webinar, "Contesting for Little Pistols," offered great operating hints that will make your Field Day more satisfying, more productive and improve your Ham radio skills.

Addressing more than 1,000 Hams, veteran contester Dan Zeitlin, K2YWE, focused attention on how amateur radio operators with small, simple stations can be successful in contests and, in general, during their normal, daily operations.



It is information that can make a frustrating Field Day into an active one with good contacts.

Simply put, Zeitlin's elements of success are having your mind in the "right" place, preparation, attention to detail, practice, learning from experience, and perseverance. No

matter if you plan to run a contest or participate in Field Day you cannot just show up on the day. Like most guys.

Zeitlin advises that operators should listen to contesters in action and notice the simplicity of language. He calls it having a "friendly sense of urgency." To

make contacts you must keep a pace and keeping a pace means getting rid of extra words. You very often hear "please copy Wisconsin" when all the other station wants is "whiskey India."

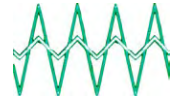
While it should not be news to any one, preparation and practice are the foundation for success in any activity. This could mean you and your buddies getting on the air the weekend before Field Day to see if the gear works and where the bands work. Add to that a written plan yes, pencil on paper! and being well rested to have a better time in the field.

Swap Fest Aug. 9

Prepare to sell your old stuff and find new at the Riverland Amateur Radio Club's Swap Fest, Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska. Hours will be from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.



President's Frequency Modulation



By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ



Well the club is a buzz with activity. If you were at the last meeting you would have known that different committees were set up to pursue different club activities going forward. Both Field Day and Swap Fest committees have been set and are in motion. We have a committee to pursue the possibility of building a new tower trailer or adding a tower to the emergency trailer.

I know that some good ideas have already come forward and will be discussed at the next meeting. If you have any ideas on this yourself please bring them to the meeting.

A club member has stepped forward to work on setting up a park shelter for our July meeting, turning the meeting into a club picnic. That meeting discussion item is on hexacopters and maybe we can get someone to give us a demonstration of one. This would be exciting for me as I have heard of them but have not seen one. More on that picnic will be forth coming.

A fox hunt committee has been set up. I am encouraged by the work that these committee members have already done. Also encouraging is the younger members who are stepping forward to handle some of the chores. With this type of membership involvement I see a growth spurt coming in our club. If you know of someone who is a ham and not a club member how about bringing them to a club meeting? New members bring new ideas and more fun.

Remember the Sunday Night Net on 2m 146.970 at 8 p.m. This is your club's forum for information.

See you at the meeting.

Who will volunteer?

When Field Day approaches or other club projects call we are like other volunteer organizations. Volunteers are essential so we can look to churches for advice on success.

Do you need more preschool workers to serve children? Do you need more greeters to greet? Do you need more ushers to...ush?

If so, it's familiar territory.

I've never met a church that said, "You know...when it comes to volunteers, we're good. We've got plenty. In fact, there's a waiting list for the nursery."

Churches everywhere need to mobilize more volunteers to get ministry done. But before you start signing people up and filling slots, it might be helpful to take a look at why people are not volunteering.

Here are five reasons people might not be volunteering at your church.

You're not asking correctly.

It takes more than blurbs in the bulletin and pleas from the pulpit to move people into volunteer positions in your

church. If you want people to serve, you've got to learn how to ask correctly.

It's hard to sign up.

Signing up has to be simple and immediate. Hidden tables in the lobby don't work. Remembering to e mail so and so isn't a good strategy.

It's not clear.

If you want people to do a job, they need to clearly understand the expectations and requirements. Pull back the veil and show people what's it like before you ask them to get involved.

You're not saying thanks.

People don't want to toil away in a thankless role. Just because someone's reward is in heaven doesn't mean they don't need to hear "thank you" on earth.

It's too hard.

The super committed will do whatever it takes, but if you want to mobilize a bunch of people, you need to make it easier. Take care of their kids, provide food, and make sure they have everything they need to succeed. A little planning on the front end goes a long way.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club

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This newsletter is sent by e mail to current and past RARC members and others. If you wish to change your address or subscription, e mail KC9IWE@arrl.net



Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, and Roger Reader, KA9BKK, provide MS Walk communications.

Public service radio operators needed

The club's commitment to public service will require radio operators at two events this spring. Hams are needed Saturday, April 26, for the MS Walk and also Saturday, June 17, for Onalaska's Minds In Motion Bike Tour.

For more information contact Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD.

Not exactly DX

Trempeo creates local 'rare' entity

The rare entities of amateur radio include tiny Antarctic islands and stormed tossed reefs. There is also Trempealeau County, Wis., at least during the Wisconsin QSO Party WiQP. Four members of the Winona Amateur Radio Club provided that rare entity for other Hams and had a great time March 9 swimming in the pile ups.

Apparently, due to Trempealeau County having not many Hams and those Hams not having much interest in this kind of operating, only one station represented the county in the WiQP, and that was the noble W9T expedition.

Expedition members shipped their precious cargo of radios, antennas and related operating items to the wilds of Galesville the day before. That is, Matt Burt, KF0Q, packed tons of his personal gear and dragged it

to the Galesville Fire Station where he was joined by Tom Peterson, KC9ECI. Together they mounted a vertical and some wires, ran coax and set up two radios for the multi op station.

Using the very flimsy pretext of Trempealeau County's 160th anniversary, Peterson got the 1x1 call, W9T, for this high class operation.

On Sunday the two were joined by Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE, a visitor, and later, Len Litvan, KC0RSX. Burt's extensive inventory of radio gear was laid out on tables in the fire station's meeting room and Peterson was on 40m using his own call to keep a spot on the band.

Promptly at 1 p.m. the group was off-and-running calling and being called. Work concentrated on 40m with excursions to 75m and even a call or two on 2m.



Tom Peterson, KC9ECI, right, operates while Len Litvan, KC0RSX, watches.

Western Wisconsin from Grant County through Pepin is poorly representing in the WiQP so contacts are grateful to hear anyone in those counties.

Peterson, chief of the Galesville Fire Department, was a gracious host and even provided tours of the

station. Question: why are Galesville's fire trucks yellow? Answer: because they are not ripe.

It was a successful operation, providing out states a rare Wisconsin County, fun for the club's participants, and a preface for the June fun of Field Day.

Skywarn training scheduled

Webinar.

Wed. April 2, 10 a.m., Webinar. E mail todd.shea@noaa.gov for dial in information

La Crosse

Tues. April 8, 6:30 p.m., Mayo Clinic Health System Marycrest Auditorium Second Floor Hospital Building 700 West Avenue South

Whitehall

Thur. April 17, 6:30 p.m., Whitehall Fire Station

Webinar.

Tue. April 29, 1 p.m., Webinar. E mail todd.shea@noaa.gov for dial in information



Calendar

Sat April 5

→ AES Superfest, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Manufacturers, exhibits, sales, and programs including:
“ABCs of Building a Better Shack,” and “Fox Hunting.”
www.aesham.com/aes-superfest-2014

Sat April 12

→ Madison Swapfest and Computer Fair, 8 a.m. to 1
p.m., Mandt Community Center, 400 Mandt Parkway,
Stoughton.

Sat April 19

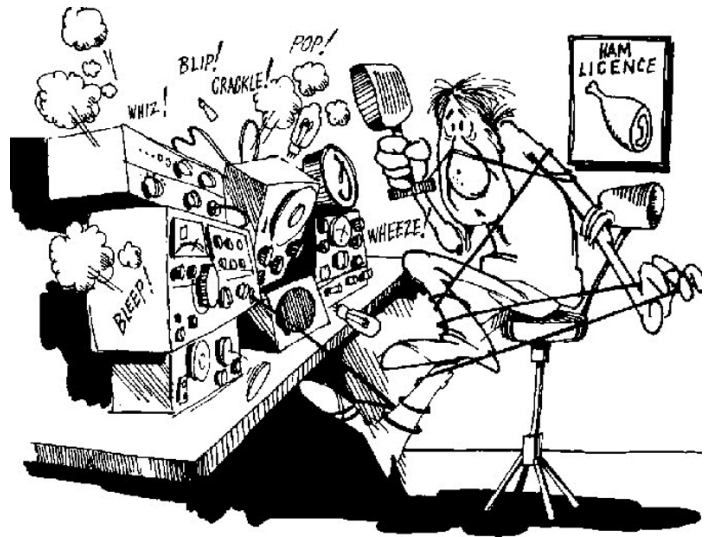
→ Brainerd Area ARC Hamfest, Brainerd, Minn. <http://brainerdham.org>

Sun April 20

→ ARRL Rookie Roundup Phone. www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

Sat April 26

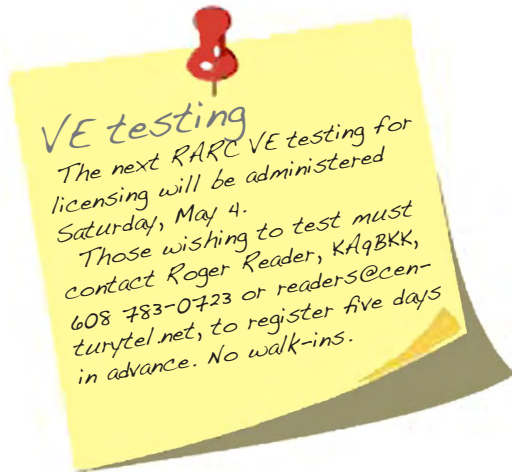
→ Aurora '14 Conference, White Bear Lake, Minn.
www.nlrs.org
→ QRP To The Field, www.zianet.com/qrp/qrp-ttf/2013.htm



To do

Band conditions have been great - jump in to any of the weekend contests and work stuff! The CQ WPX SSB contest March 29-30 www.cqwpix.com/ will be an all band picnic and if you're not a contester, the CW bands and WARC bands will be wide open, too.

Technicians, especially - here's your chance to find out what us old timers have been reminiscing about. Just this weekend, your editor started at 10 meters and worked one DX station on each band all the way down to 160 meters in a little over an hour. It's rare that all the bands are this lively - have at it!



Marathon volunteers needed

Volunteers are still needed to provide communications for the Cellcom Green Bay Marathon from 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Sixty radio operators are needed for this large event.

The only requirement is a Technician license and an HT for 2 meters. New hams are welcome.

Volunteers from across the state (i.e. La Crosse) may be offered a free hotel room so they may travel to Green Bay the day before the marathon. Those new to the event will be paired with experienced people.

To sign up for the marathon, click on the “Join Group” button in the upper right corner of the web page at <http://groupspaces.com/Cellcom-Marathon-ARES/>.

Answer all of the questions including hotel and T-shirt size.