

THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club



The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. The club is active in community service as well as actively promoting Amateur Radio in the Coulee Region. The Club is open to all who are interested in Amateur Radio and will help unlicensed persons become licenses thru the FCC.

HEATHKIT NIGHT

**Riverland
Amateur Radio
Club**
P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, WI.
54636

Repeater
146.970 PL 131.8

RARC Net
8:00 PM Sunday
night on the
146.970 Repeater

Club Meetings
Trustee Meeting
3rd Monday of the
month at King
Street Kitchen at
5:00 PM, all club
members are
welcome.

Program evening is
1st Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 PM,
Gunderson Clinic
conference room 1
in the lower level.



The Club was treated to a very good presentation on the history of the Heathkit Company at our March program night. It was put on by Roger Reader, KA9BKK, complete with hand-outs, visual aids and samples of Heathkit on display. And let's not forget the Heath Bar's for all to eat. To Roger we say Thank You for a very good and informative program.

APRIL PROGRAM NIGHT

A Special treat for the club members for our April Program Night. We will be guests of the WXOW Channel 19 Studio's where we will be given a tour of the facility as well as view a news cast live. This gives us a chance to see where our 146.970 repeater is housed and the antenna's. This will be a very interesting evening.



Do you have an obsession, a ritual that you do regularly, I do. Some of you may remember a local fast food restaurant called "Sandy's". In grade school I had a paper bag from that business that I used for my bag lunch every day. I would fold that bag up and put it in my back pocket for the next day. My best friend thought that very strange so he said he would sign that bag every day that I brought it. 50 years later and even though he lives in Florida and me in Wisconsin, whenever we meet he is still signing that bag. That bag to me represents a life time of friendship. Amateur Radio does the same thing, it maintains that friendship you have with a friend that has moved or one you met on the radio. What a wonderful hobby to share to keep those friendships alive. So turn on that HF rig and make that regular contact and keep that friendship from fading away.

**Riverland Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650**

President.....Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD
Vice-President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS
Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS
Treasurer.....Greg Miller, K9LEC
Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS
Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK
Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ
Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC

The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. Address any correspondence to: Greg Miller at k9lec@arrl.net.

Visit our website at rarc.qth.com



Testing for new Ham's or upgrades for 2017 will be on the following dates:

- April 1
- June 3
- August 5 (Swapfest)
- September 9
- November 11

Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurtytel.net.

Presidents Frequency Modulation From Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD

Greetings to you all! As we approach this busy time in our hobby of amateur radio, I would hope that everyone partake in any and all training that is provided. We have the storm spotter training coming up in April the 6th at 6:30 PM at the Marycrest auditorium in the Mayo clinic. Training is important in keeping us "honed" in on our requested tasks. Besides its free! We also have so many awesome club programs this year, most of which are planned and ready to go, and I think we can all benefit from going and learning what we can from the people presenting the programs.

Again I would like to remind everyone of my main goal this year to recruit more hams. If we all do a little in promoting our great hobby and skills, just maybe, some will want to join and be a part of it. As a club, we will be more in the public eye this year and hoping to get more media coverage and get the word out so we can promote. Thanks to you all who are club members and for making a difference. 73 Kevin KC9ZGD

Why Special Services Club?

By Greg Miller k9lec

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club has reached a milestone on January 19, 2017, 45 years of affiliation with the ARRL. Originally starting out as the Onalaska Radio Club we later changed the name to the RARC to encompass a larger area when the Tri-state Repeater association turned the 146.970 repeater over to the club. Since that time we have always tried to be a club that encompassed all phases of the Amateur Radio hobby. Because of this when the ARRL started the Special Service Club Program the RARC jumped right on board.



The ARRL describes the SSC as:

“A special program exists to recognize those clubs who do more than the usual for their communities and for Amateur Radio. These well-rounded groups are the Special Service Clubs (SSCs). SSCs are the leaders in their Amateur Radio communities. They're the ones with the active training classes, the publicity program and the members who actively pursue technical projects and operating activities.”

Participation in the SSC program means a more ambitious program for our club. By taking an active role in coordination with the ARRL Field Organization, we create a stronger, more effective Amateur Radio presence in our area. The SSC program is designed to be flexible, but is still designed to help guide clubs to incorporate programs to reach these goals.

Below is items of concern while maintaining the SSC status:

- a. Training and supporting local Amateur Radio efforts in licensing, upgrading and continuing education or elmering.
- b. Public Relations and improving the visibility of Amateur Radio, promoting it as a positive force within the community.
- c. A willingness to become involved in any local emergency or drill.
- d. Technical Advancement and encouraging members to become more familiar and knowledgeable in technical Amateur Radio aspects in the community.
- e. Operating Activities in which a substantial program is conducted in an area of particular interest of the club; and,
- f. Miscellaneous Activities in which ongoing programs or activities are in additional established areas.

A truly effective SSC will also go beyond the basic requirements and seek to broaden the Amateur Radio experience and capabilities of its members; it will also encourage a spirit of beneficence and camaraderie among its members. In return, ARRL HQ will provide additional support and guidance to those clubs who commit themselves to a high level of performance.

So why Special Service Club?

As any good mechanic knows, the better the quality of his tools, the better the quality of his performance. I see the SSC status as a good quality tool for our club to use for better performance. Used properly we will continue to grow and improve.

A New Day is Dawning... by Carl Thurston KC9HDS

There have been many Hams who have expressed ideas for the advancement and improvement of our club. All ideas have some merit and some will be implemented. This is not to say that everything that comes up is to be incorporated in the Standing Rules, By Laws, or the Constitution of the club, but it would be short sighted to discount any idea without a fair hearing and some serious thought. With that in mind, the changes that have been adopted are being evaluated and so far there have been no objections to having the "Business" portion that was previously part of the Membership Meeting, added to the Executive Board Meeting, thus allowing the Membership Meeting to have more time for educational and social events.

Some members want change, while others are happy with the status quo. In spite of the initial worries about how this change will affect the future of the club, after its implementation, things have been going very smoothly. Oh yes there still are some unanswered questions about scheduling presentations, projects, and other possible activities that could take place at our monthly meeting, but so far it is working well. We still need to fill a lot of gaps in in future meeting agendas but that will work itself out in time.

We need to come up with a new approach for the recruitment of new members. A new and more efficient way of drawing in new members is required. Perhaps a more market driven sort of method is needed. A means of getting the word out to other civic clubs may be a way. Developing a presentation that we could take to those clubs, could be an approach for new recruitment and to show the services that we provide to the community.

Everyone agrees that technology has changed everything. Perhaps we need to embrace some of that change for the recruitment of new members. Exactly how and when this could be done is a huge question.

Since the restructuring of our Membership Meeting and the revamping of our Executive Board, things have changed and improved. We still have a long way to go to ensure that our club continues to thrive, but more members are becoming active. To be a Ham, especially as a member of ARRL and Riverland Amateur Radio Club means that we are devoted to public service.

Through SkyWarn for the National Weather Service we have the means to do a real service for our community. The trick is to get our work as SkyWarn spotters recognized for what it is and to ensure the public that our efforts are needed. To further this goal we should all go to the Storm Spotter training session and get more fully involved with SkyWarn and the National Weather Service. The annual spotter training session is coming soon and it would be good if we continue to have a large presence at that training session.

As SkyWarn spotters we are on the leading edge of reporting the status of storms as they occur. This is an invaluable community service, one that may not gain a lot of notice for being there, but it will be noticed if we as not there when serious storms come our way. It is through community services such as this that our club's viability will show forth. In this way a new day is dawning for Amateur Radio and our club.



April

1st....License testing

4th....Program Night

6th....Skywarn Training

8th....Stoughton Swapfest

17th....Executive Committee Meeting

**RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Monday March 20, 2017 Executive Meeting
MINUTES**

Call to order: 17:17

Members Present : Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD, Greg Miller K9LEC, Roger Reader KA9BKK, Dan Abts AB9TS, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Bill Wood KE9XQ

Approval of Minutes: 2-20-17 Approved without comment

Treasurer's Report: Greg Treasures report available to members upon request.

Officer's Reports:

Rick: Nine renewed memberships have been received since the mass mailing was sent out. Received letter from DX engineering, they offer to make a presentation to the club via Skype

On a variety of topics, or one of our choosing. Kevin will review for possible inclusion on program list.

nite: 1. end-fed 1/2 wave HF antenna, \$10-\$15 cost, one kit assembled for inspection and will put together a few more if there is interest, 2. J-pole antenna, 3. 12V 75A power supply, 4. 2M 1/4 wave ground plane antenna. Roger will help members on project nite with assembly.

Committee Reports:

Kevin made an inquiry and LaCrosse County will charge a fee for utilizing their building for club meetings

Old Business:

Shirts/jackets: Kevin tabled this till next month, need more time to look into this

Grandad Bluff Marathon: Still need more volunteers for the May 6 event

Memberships for new Hams: Any new licensees from any testing location will be given a complimentary membership for one year from their testing date. We will then prorate any remaining time left in the year and include in the following year's dues.

Membership in VOAD: Kevin checked into this, no benefit seen in joining this group.

Constitution/Standing rules: a number of things identified that need changing/update:

Standing Rules article VII: Quorum needs review

Document procedure for new licensees' membership status

Should all club members have a vote in financial expenditures ?

Limit the amount of expenditures that the executive board may approve ?

Executive team to review in next 30 days and report back these or any further changes.

New Business:

Length of Executive Board meetings was discussed. No changes at this time.

Motion to Adjourn : 18:25

GOOD IDEA

There is some interest in starting a 2m net for newly licensed Technicians. If you want to see such a net get started contact me at k9lec@arrl.net and I will forward your interest on to those working on this.

