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As ready As Can Be...

As the time passes, we all tend to assume a certain state of readiness. It is not the same type or form of readiness for all of us, but it is readiness just the same. It could be readiness to deal with domestic issues. It could be readiness to perform your occupational tasks. It could be readiness to ward off illness, fatigue, or minor accidents. It could just be the readiness that comes from the resolve to see the end of things. It could be a lot of things.

As Hams we like to think of ourselves as being ready for any eventuality, be it catastrophic weather, power outages, or other man made disasters. Usually it is the younger Hams that are more eager for this sort of experience, but not always. Some older Hams like to build up to a fever pitch gradually over many years. Some tire of the anticipation of pending doom. Some feel after a while that there is no need to prepare for anything, as the local, state, and national authorities have everything under control and that they don't need our help.

It could be that these are some of the reasons why organizations such as ARES/RACES has steadily declined in numbers of members and participants. It could also be that we are falling victim to the "chicken little syndrome," where after repeatedly being subjected to the over exaggerated descriptions of pending calamities by those who seem to be in the know, we become disillusioned. It could be that we have become lackadaisical about preparing for disasters because there have been so few of them in our immediate area. This could also be true of those who have been ready for "the Big One" for decades only to sit despondently waiting with their gear set to go and with nothing to do. Kind of like being all dressed up with no place to go.

Perhaps we should be emphasizing more involvement in training for such disasters. Perhaps, we as Hams should devote a portion of our meeting time to readiness drills. Perhaps we should each study techniques and methods of dealing with disasters. This wouldn't have to be a drudgery, it could be set up in such a way as to become an enjoyable activity. Field Day is one example of a potential disaster simulation exercise, SkyWarn Appreciation Day, and even a remotely located Special Event Station can be added to a list of activities that promote readiness and the ability to operate in locations that weren't specifically designed for radio communications.

It is my observation that Hams tend to be fairly independent. I guess that it is part of what it takes to be a Ham in the first place. When one is independent, by definition one needs to be self reliant. By being self reliant, the very skills and talents needed to stand up to disasters when they happen, are nurtured. There are some abilities that are naturally generated when a Ham shack is designed and set up. In the process a lot of skills are honed and a good amount of on the air experience helps to complete the picture. Not everyone has the time or the talent to do all of these things to perfection, but with diligence, much can be accomplished over time.

73

Carl

KC9HDS



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings to all Club Members,

Well spring has finally arrived. For me this means the weather is warm enough to allow me to tinker in my unheated garage and work on whatever projects suite my needs. There is my MFJ 20/40 dipole that currently has a high SWR for some unknown reason and is in need of repair. Then of course, I must not forget to repair the all-important Yagi (made of painted PVC tube) used on the club's Rotary Lights Christmas tree. Our ornamental Yagi had gotten damaged during the December wind storm. Additionally, I'm planning on taking my Packet Radio Go Kit out for test some evening and operating from my local community park. It will be interesting to see if my kit has everything needed to connect and actively engage in a packet radio net I check into weekly.

Warm weather or not, the club has already commenced with some outdoor activities for the year. On March 12th, the club volunteered in the St. Patrick's Day Parade held in La Crosse by providing communications along the parade route. A few members went mobile and participated in the Wisconsin QSO Party on March 13th. While April currently has no planned outdoor activities for the club, in May the club will be assisting in the MS Walk (Saturday May 21st) in downtown La

Crosse and will be in need of volunteers from the club for this effort. Similar to our efforts in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the work in the MS Walk will be to monitor the route and report back to net control with any traffic. In the past there has been MS Walk participants with health related issues that make this walk a challenge for them. As volunteers we are able to report back to net control on the current status of those participants, provide encouragement to them along the route, and generally assist in other needs that present themselves in this event. It is a fun and easy way to give back to our community.

At our April 5, 2022 club meeting we will have Kevin Rindy as our guest presenter. Kevin is the La Crosse Emergency Management Manager and he will give us some insight on his office's role in handling emergency situations. For all those members that are interested in the emergency communications aspects of our hobby, I'm sure this presentation will be of particular interest to them. I highly encourage members who feel comfortable in doing so to attend this meeting in person. We will of course have the meeting set up on Zoom those members that prefer this method of attendance. Until then, 73 and I hope to see as many members there as possible.

Shawn KD9KGQ, RARC President



RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday, March 21, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes



» Call to Order: 1837

» Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved with some spelling corrections.

» Treasurer's Report: Problems with account info from bank- Shawn KD9KGQ will help Drew AB9NE get this fixed.

» Officer's Report:

- Club's Yaesu FT 857 control head is back from repair. KD9KGQ currently has possession of it and will get it back to the club trailer when Greg K9LEC gets back from his trip. Drew AB9NE paid Dan AB9TS for the repairs
- Best Kept Portables LLC has been contacted to reserve one Standard toilet (at \$100.00) and one Handwash station (at \$75.00) for the Field Day Weekend of June 24th at Jostad's Farm. If we pursue getting a Handicap toilet it would cost \$140.00. At this time, Shawn KD9KGQ is waiting to hear back from Best Kept Portables LLC as to whether there would be any additional charges, such as a delivery charge or fuel cost surcharge. A motion is needed to approve this expenditure. A motion was made for the expenditure of \$175.00 by Scott KB3MKD, 2nd by Dave, approved.
- Rotary Lights Volunteer wrap up meeting and check pick up for our club's volunteer work. A check for \$190.00, Carl KC9HDS picked it up.

» Committee Reports:

Scott KB3MKD has sent an email to Randy Knapp "The T-Shirt Guy" for more info on shirts for the club- it will be worked out- Scott KB3MKD will get the details.

» Old Business:

- Club's ARRL general registration page has been updated by Rick KD9GVS. Has been updated- Shawn KD9KGQ will follow with the result with Rick.
- MS Walk (Saturday, May 21, 2022) – Rick KD9GVS has our club signed up to assist with this event. More later on this.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade – Recap of how the event went for the club. Rick KD9GVS- It went well but there was some problems with the baracades that were used. They need to be moved further out to be more effective. The event went well, the food was good.
- Wisconsin QSO Party – Recap of how this event went. Drew AB9NE- It went fairly well, but there were some problems with not having the needed connectors, also the set up was not the easiest to do. There were 11,396 points made by the RARC members involved. Drew AB9NE will do a write up about it for "The Key."

» New Business:

- La Crosse Queen Cruise – As a starting point Shawn KD9KGQ contacted the La Crosse Queen staff in late February to get pricing for a club outing in July. The dates available at that time that seemed to best fit in with our "normal" July outing were Wednesday July 6th and Friday July 8th for the 5:30 pm public cruise. The cost for adults would be \$22.50 (\$21.50 for seniors) not including taxes and gratuity. An estimate of 25-35 members (and family) was supplied to the La Crosse Queen staff. A 30% deposit with a signed contract would be due back in four weeks. Using 35 attendees as a baseline at \$22.50 per, we would be required to pay \$ 236.25 as the deposit. A financial commitment would be required from all members wishing to take part in this event. The question before the board members is how do we proceed with this proposal? Shawn KD9KGQ called to get details from the La Crosse Queen organizer. The exact date is to be determined, perhaps July 6, 7, 8 or a weekend near that. Shawn KD9KGQ will check this out and let us know the details.

- Club Picnic – Rowe Park in Onalaska? In the past we have had our picnic in June. If we keep it in June and Field Day happening at the end of June, which of the other three Saturdays would be most appropriate? Where do we stand with comfort level in bringing back the Pot Luck with the club supplying the charcoal grilled steaks? Details to be determined. Will inform when it is known.
 - Onalaska Community Days and RARC Swapfest are happening on the same August 6th weekend. In recent years we have used the American Legion Hall room for our RARC Swapfest. According to the Onalaska Community Days website it appears this hall will be in use. After checking with the manager at the Legion, it was determined that we would have the use of the Hall, but we would not be able to use the parking lot for tailgaters. We need to determine our location plans for our RARC Swapfest event. IrishFest will be August 13, 14, 15. We plan to be a part of it again this year.
 - Dan AB9TS will contact Dan Rasmusson about our antenna and the interference that we some times experience.
- » Motion to Adjourn: 2002 Drew so moved, approved.

Monthly Program List

Kevin Rindy, La Crosse County Emergency Management - April

Bill O'Driscoll (retired patent lawyer for Trane), radio related patents – May

Field Day Planning - June



Volunteering and Amateur Radio

Ham radio is both a hobby and a service. We use our hobby to contribute to our communities both in emergencies and in public service. We contribute our radios and our skills to provide communications for parades, races, and charity events. We have a long history of providing communications in disasters and in simple community public service.

A couple of weeks ago I was standing on the street corner on a cold morning wearing ice fishing boots in support of communications for the annual Saint Patrick's Day parade. In a couple of months our club will do the same thing for the MS walk. In August we will participate in Irishfest. In September we have been invited to join the Winona Amateur Radio club to support the Ride to Ridges bicycle ride. In February we participated in a search for a missing man. Every December we participate in Rotary Lights.

It is not required to participate in such events. But public service is an important aspect of ham radio, and it is enjoyable to participate, we receive public exposure that can attract people and grow the hobby, and we receive gratitude from the organizers of these events, who are leaders in the community.

I encourage all of you to participate.

73

Scott

KB3MKD



Wisconsin QSO Party

The 2022 iteration of the Wisconsin QSO Party (WIQP) happened on March 14. This was a contest that (as a Wisconsin resident) I have wanted to participate in for several years, but never really made a point to do. That will not happen again. I had a lot of fun with it and hope to participate in more such events in the future.

I planned an outing with Shawn (KD9KGQ). The scoring for WIQP features 500 bonus points for each county from which you operate outside your home county, so we planned stops in a series of counties that would minimize the travel between them. My goal was to operate this contest, but I was also interested in trying some new things out with my station. I had not operated CW in a contest before, so I wanted experience using a computer log to generate code. My project over the winter was to design and build a linked dipole antenna. I'll describe it in another article.

I had my things pretty well packed the night before, and Shawn added his equipment Sunday morning. I have to apologize to him because I told him he need not bring extra coax because I had a length already packed. I had forgotten that it ends with a BNC connector and would need an adaptor to use a 20M telescopic vertical. We were on location when I realized this problem. I also packed a 40/75M dipole to hang from a tree. That was for Shawn to use.

As we crossed the Wisconsin River into Muscoda, we saw a park with a pavillion off the road to our left. It looked like a good spot, so we planned to come back. We continued Eastward from Muscoda and were shortly in Iowa County where we found a State Natural Area. The roads were a bit sloppy, but we eventually came to a boat landing with an open area within the woods. There was only one other vehicle around, so that looked like a good place to set up.

We got busy with the set-up. I got the fiberglass mast and dipole up. Shawn had been setting his equipment up, so I helped him get his dipole deployed. We missed the contest start by about 1/2 hour when we were ready to operate. I tuned around and heard some stations on 40M, so I called them and got immediate responses. I started with two Ohio stations. After working three or four stations, I tried calling CQ. It took a few calls, but I soon got responses and was up to 13 QSOs. We needed 12 to qualify for the county bonus points. I hollered over to Shawn who was attempting RTTY contacts. He wasn't having much luck with it.

We packed everything back up and headed back to that park in Muscoda. A later exam of my log showed a 1 1/2 hour down time for the move until my first QSO from Grant County. Richland County was right across the river, but it really didn't make much sense to pack, move, and set up again. I worked a few more CW QSOs, but as the sun started going down and it got colder, my shivering hands made it difficult to manipulate the keys that often. I thought I could manage to squeeze a PTT, so I unpacked my mic and looked through my radio manual to find out where to plug it in. I got on SSB and tuned up and down the band calling stations as I heard them. It was probably about 6:30 when I started calling CQ. It is always a thrill to be the station causing a pile-up. I spent the rest of the night that way, and I had stations from Arizona to US Virgin Islands to Quebec giving me a 20 over S9 report. It was quite the validation for my homebrew dipole driven with an FT-891. As the sun was down at the end of the contest at 8 PM, I was working by the light of my computer monitor and shivering.

Is portable operations worth it? Absolutely! Working from outdoors with a friend was far more fun than alone in the shack. Is planning to move counties every 12 QSOs worth it? Not if you're able to get on a calling frequency and run the pileups. I finished with 11,396 points in 3 1/2 hours of operating. The points doubled in the last 1 1/2 hours of "running the freq". The bonus points would probably beat search-and-pounce. Most stations who work as a rover do it with mobile antennas on their car, so it's just a matter of stopping in each county. I'm already thinking about next year. I could see setting up at the South boat landing on Goose Island. That's in Vernon County...

73

Drew

AB9NE



Reservations

Things are warming up both weather wise and event wise. Its nice that the weather is getting to be more enjoyable, As the days continue to get longer, the ambient temperature is getting warmer and more amenable to doing things out side. Its getting to be the time when we can go out and do some of the things that we have been putting off due to inclement weather. There are a lot of things to do including getting one's yard cleaned up, the lawn raked to get the grass going again, the bushes and trees trimmed ready to leaf out and for the fruit tress to start producing. All of these things are what most people do starting now. There are some things that the typical Ham looks to take care of: like doing maintenance on antennas, checking feed lines, and doing upgrades to outdoor Ham equipment. It is good to be able to get back to these tasks as it has been a long and not too agreeable winter. Along with the normal tasks that we all have to deal with there are the tasks that need to be done to get our annual events on track.

We can look forward to an active events calendar this year, after the some what abbreviated calendars that were forced on us due to the pandemic. It won't be long before we will be marshaling the MS Walk, doing our Annual PicNic, participating in Field Day, and of course buying and selling at our fantastic SwapFest.

Our Executive Board has been very busy getting all of the events lined up, along with lots of presentations at our monthly meetings. Most of the schedules for the events have been completed.

Here are some of the currently scheduled RARC events:

- RARC got a check at the La Crescent Rotary breakfast March 11 for helping at Rotary Lights.
- The Saint Patrick's Day parade on March 12th went well. Rick Kolter again spearheaded that event.
- Several of our members took part in the Wisconsin QSO Party on March 13th.
- MS Walk will be on May 21. It should be a good time to get out and make use of your handy talkies to keep things going smoothly. Rick Kolter is heading up that event as well.
- Our Annual RARC PicNic will be June 4th in shelter #2 at Rowe park Onalaska.
- Field Day will be on June 24-25 at Jostad's farm.
- Our Annual Boat Ride will be on the La Crosse Queen in July exact date to be determined includes pizza \$25 per person XYs welcome, make reservations.
- The RARC SwapFest will again be at the Onalaska American Legion on August 6th but no tail gating.
- Onalaska Community Days will also be running at the Legion August 6 and 7.
- The 17th annual Irish Fest will be held on August 12 through 14 and we are planning to have a Special Event Station there again this year.

Enough for now.

73

Carl

kc9hds



UPCOMING Events for April 2022

- ◆ RARC Sunday Night 2Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for March are:

April 3, 2022	Shawn kd9kgq
April 10, 2022	Mark kb9ofk
April 17, 2022	Rick kd9gvs
April 24, 2022	Wayne k0wlo

- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **April 5...**Program Night: Kevin Rindy, La Crosse County Emergency Management
- ◆ **April 18...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 6:30 PM, Onalaska Perkins. All members are welcome to attend.



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO

Gator Case - Size GR-4S: \$150

- Will include a rack shelf with universal hole pattern
- Will include a set of spare shelf mounting screws.

Mobile mounting bracket: \$20

Fits IC-718, IC-7200, IC-7300, IC-78, IC-9700, IC-R75

Contact Drew Neve

Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net

The FCC released a [Public Notice](#) on March 23, 2022, stating that the amateur radio application fees, including those associated with Form 605 application filings, would become **effective on April 19, 2022**. The Federal Communications Commission's authority to impose and collect fees is mandated by Congress.

The \$35 application fee, when it becomes effective on April 19, will apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. The fee will be per application.

Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, will be exempt from fees.

CLUB INFORMATION



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 621

Onalaska, WI 54650

- * The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club by the 28th of each month. The newsletter focuses on news, announcements and activities of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. It may also consist of news and information of interest to the Amateur Radio community as a whole. Guest editorials and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome. Contribution articles should be submitted NLT the 26th of the month. Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Scott Cross KB3MKD@arrl.net
- * The Riverland Amateur Radio Club maintains a website at rarc.qth.com. More information about the club can be found there as well as past copies of The Key.
- * RARC also maintains a Facebook page where members add information and share their Amateur Radio adventures. Please friend us at Riverland Amateur Radio Club—RARC.
- * RARC maintains a repeater that is located on the WXOW television tower above La Cresent, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.
- * RARC holds a weekly 2meter net on Sundays at 8:00 PM on the 146.970 repeater.
- * Trustee Meeting is held the 3rd Monday of the month at Perkins Restaurant, 9428 State Road 16, Onalaska, WI 54650 at 5:30 PM, all club members are welcome.
- * Program evening is held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM, elmer session at 6:30 PM at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 401 West Avenue in La Crosse.
- * Weekly "Breakfast Club" Ragchew on the 146.970 repeater on Saturday's from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Stop by to say "hi".

Below are listed your RARC 2022 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

Vice-President.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email...kb9ewg@gmail.com

Secretary.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

Trustee.....Scott Cross, KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net

Trustee.....Dan Abts AB9TS Email...ab9ts@yahoo.com

Repeater Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK Email...readers@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net