

# THE KEY

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



Riverland Amateur  
Radio Club  
P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, Wis. 54650

Repeater  
146.970 PL 131.8

RARC Net  
8 p.m. Sundays on the  
146.970 repeater.

Club meetings  
7 p.m., Tuesday, meet  
ing room 1, lower level,  
Gundersen/Lutheran La  
Crosse. **Elmer session** 6  
p.m.

RARC Web page  
<http://rarc.qth.com/>

## Swap Fest



8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 13  
Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska

Refer questions to Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, [ka9foz@gmail.com](mailto:ka9foz@gmail.com) 608 792-7841



W9LSE 'activates' Zion Canyon National Park for NPOTA

## Club NPOTA activation of Effigy Mounds planned

For those who missed it, 2016 is the Centennial of the National Park Service. ARRL has had a year long event, National Parks on the Air NPOTA, to help NPS celebrate. Many of the 484 eligible NPS units have been grateful for the extra attention they've been getting, especially the smaller units. I had the pleasure of being the first Ham to activate Zion, Grand Canyon, Death Valley and Bryce Canyon National Parks. Most knew about NPOTA and all were delighted to have a Ham transmit from their park.

NPOTA recommends that activators are "ambassadors" of Amateur Radio so I introduced myself, NPOTA, and got permission before unpacking the radio.

Being first to activate Bryce, for instance, there was some head scratching and memo reading before I was permitted to operate but, once underway, the park officials were

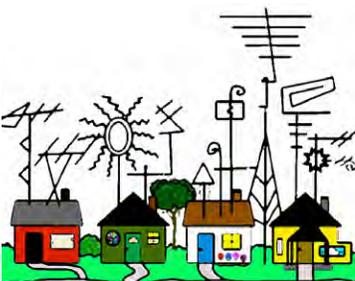
thrilled by the activation.

The closest National Park Service unit to us is Effigy Mounds National Monument, near Harpers Ferry, Iowa. Our club could activate it Saturday, Aug. 27, when many, many units should be on the air, thus providing us with many chasers for our log.

The plan is to carpool to Effigy Mounds with the club trailer. There we would operate from the trailer with the two club radios, our Honda generator and laptop loggers. Effigy Mounds is a sacred place and an archeology site so we must be sensitive and we must not put so much as a tent stake in the ground. Tentatively, we'd operate from about 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Our activation would be on Facebook and the NPOTA listing so chasers would be listening for us on 20 and 40 meters.

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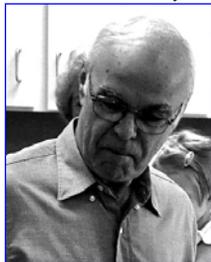


Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, keeps his friendships and his operating skills alive on-the-air.

### Friends stay in-touch; polish skills

By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ

What a better way of rejuvenating your interest in Amateur Radio than to turn your radio on and make a contact or two. Better yet make a regular contact with someone on a weekly basis. That is what I have been doing and not only has it sparked some interest back in me but I keep in contact with a past member of the RARC Steve Kelner, KB9BMX, who has moved to Florida. We have been working on a twice a week schedule, propagation permitting. In doing so, I am discovering things that have been going wrong and things that have been going right. Such as my rotor has decided to work, why I don't know. I still need to replace that rotor someday, after all I can't read the direction anymore as the digital numbers are burning out. I also am able to do some comparison of my radios. Seems my Corsair II gets out better than my Yaesu. Neither Steve nor I are using an amplifier, just barefoot at 100 watts. But this has given me some desire to hook up an amplifier in line. I can also do some antenna comparisons. My Mosley beam does a much better job than my 5 band dipole. So whatever your spark is, get out and do it.



Steve Kelner, KB9BMX.

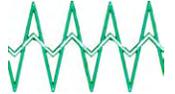
### License testing

- ✓ 9 a.m. Sat. Aug. 13, Swap Fest
- ✓ 9 a.m. Sat. Sept. 10, Church of Christ, 3506 28th St. S.

Register at least five days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783 0723 or [readers@centurytel.net](mailto:readers@centurytel.net).

### President's Frequency Modulation

By Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD



Greetings to all Hams! What a busy summer we have had so far with field day, storm spotting, and now the Swap Fest coming up real soon Aug. 13. I am looking forward to the National Parks On the Air on Sat. Aug. 27 which will be my first time. It has been and will continue to be my advice that we all expand our level of understanding and experience in ham radio. I try and look for every opportunity to learn and grow not just to become a better ham, but for my own personal growth. I encourage Hams to encourage others in learning and better understanding of our great hobby. I feel there has been some negativity in our club and I ask that it stops! I would like us all to grow together as a club and community.

It was my goal as club president to improve it and leave the position with the thought that the club would be a better club then when I started. We may not always agree with each other, but we should challenge ourselves and others to grow and accept the differences that we all bring to the table. Let's make this a better day by starting today.

I would like to also ask for one thing from every Ham as an August challenge. Mentor, teach, or show some one about ham radio, someone new who may become interested in ham radio. We have so many kids these days playing Pokémon Go, when they could be fox hunting. It's the same thing only fox hunting makes more sense and can be done by people of all ages. To sum it up, lets teach the younger generation something worthwhile.

In conclusion, reflect on yourself and the kind of impact or difference you make on the community, ham operators, and other club members. To be humble is a great sign of a true man with a solid foundation of peace and wisdom. Open communication between others is very important and I just hope that everyone can take the time and help make the club and its members the best that we can be.

### Riverland Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, Wis. 54650



- President ..... Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD
- Vice president..... Dan Abts, AB9TS
- Treasurer..... Greg Miller, KA9FOZ
- Secretary..... Bob Seaquist, W9LSE
- Newsletter editor.. Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

Address correspondence regarding the club to Greg Miller, [ka9foz@gmail.com](mailto:ka9foz@gmail.com). 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 [W9LSE@arrl.net](mailto:W9LSE@arrl.net)

## Emergency preparedness + contesting = Field Day

By Mike Cizek W0VTT

When ARRL Field Day began in 1933, it was an experiment designed to test portable operation. The initial experiment appears to have been successful, because we are still operating and enjoying Field Day 83 years later. The event has certainly changed over the years. Different groups treat it as anything from an all out blood and guts contest to a weekend beer blast with a few radios on the side. Most hams think of it as a contest, but the company line from Newington is that Field Day is still an emergency preparedness exercise. There is an interesting article on the history of Field Day by K3RA in the December 1999 issue of QST, pp 28-31.

On the surface, emergency communications and contesting don't appear to have much in common and few hams are very active in both areas. However, if we dig down below the surface and take a close look at the skills required, we find a lot of common ground and see that both sides can benefit by learning from the other.

The serious EMCOMM folks have their go kits always at the ready, batteries topped off, supplies either packed or close at hand, and they participate regularly in drills or exercises. Most EMCOMM folks have little or no interest in contests. They think contest operating has nothing to do with EMCOMM, and are either ineffective or completely lost in a contest environment.

The contesters concentrate on building the best, most effective stations possible, having everything ready for the next contest, and honing their skills to be able to make as many QSOs as possible during the next contest. How many big contesters would get good results if they had a major power, equipment, or antenna failure just before or during a major contest?

So, where is the common ground between the two? Both need to be able to send and receive information quickly and accurately under stressful



Mike Cizek, W0VTT, operates CW at Field Day.

and often unfamiliar conditions. In a real emergency, we don't have much time to prepare and may be sent someplace to either operate unfamiliar equipment, or quickly set up an effective station of our own. We need to be able to send Red Cross requests 50 medical kits at Rushford city hall, receive understand medical kits coming from Winona EOC, ETA 2 hours, and process tell the Red Cross official who requested the supplies the information. Sometimes, it may be necessary to do this very quickly if there are several stations all using the same repeater, or if your location has a large volume of time sensitive traffic.

Operating a contest remarkably similar. The hurried pace of the contest adds a level of stress not unlike what is present in an emergency situation, and you need to send W1AW 3A MN, receive IE CT, and process type it in the log information quickly and accurately. Field Day adds the element of setting up and operating in an unfamiliar location, often with unfamiliar equipment.

Let's hope this essay provokes some discussion, and provides incentive to try some new ways to enhance our emergency communications skills, and have even more fun with Amateur Radio.

## Why do contests?

(From a Webinar by Ward Silver, N0AX)

The idea, according to Silver, is that good public service operators gain skills from contesting, even casual contesting. He says it's the same for doing a physical work-out because exercise is good for you. In addition, contests are good for your club and public service groups because "they are fun!"

Amateurs cannot simply show up at an emergency and expect to operate if they have not practiced. And while contesting does not teach emergency procedures, it helps make the Amateur effective.

Contesting...

- ▶ Prepares an operator and station
- ▶ Gives practice overcoming challenges
- ▶ Improves speaking, sending, logging
- ▶ Teaches Amateurs to speak clearly, train ears
- ▶ Practice teamwork
- ▶ Gives station a workout (does everything work?)

## Calendar

### Tue. Aug. 2

↔ Riverland Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., Gundersen, LL1 meeting room. "Elmer" session 6 p.m..

### Sat. Aug. 6

↔ August UHF Contest, <http://ubfcontest.org/>

### Sat. Aug. 13

↔ RARC Swapfest, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska.

### Sat. Aug. 27

↔ National Park On The Air activation of Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry, Iowa, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Riverland Amateur Radio Club Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:59 p.m. by President Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD

ATTENDANCE *Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Roger Reader, KA9BKK; Ron Martinmaki, W9EOA; Larry Worthington, KC9HDP; David Peters, KB9EWG; Rick Kolter; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Art Osborn, W0JDC; Scott Cross, KB3MKD; Dan Abts, AB9TS; John Keiser, KD9FZX.*

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Rick Kolter

### MINUTES

June minutes approved.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Approved

### FIELD DAY

Dan Abts, AB9TS, showed some images and reported results. Dave Peters, KB9EWG, presented a video of the event.

### SWAPFEST

Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, will bring a volunteer sign up sheet to the August meeting. Members are needed for help, set up, etc. Motion: Peters/Worthington: club will spend up to 200 for door prizes to include a tuner, coax and dummy load. Approved.

### SHACK SHARE

Scott Cross KB3MKD. Dan Abts, AB9TS will present Shack Share at August meeting.

### DONATED EQUIPMENT

Motion: Cross/Miller: club keep all equipment donated to the club by Leonard Olson. That includes: Icom IC 718 HF Transceiver; Icom AT 180 Auto Tuner; Samlex America SEC 1223 Switching DC Power Supply; Kenwood TH G7I Dual Band HT; Kenwood PG 3J Cigarette Lighter Cord; Kenwood SMC 34 Speaker Microphone; Kenwood BC 17 HT Battery Charger; Kenwood TM G707A Dual Band FM transceiver; VHF UHF mag mount antenna; Straight Key; Yaesu FT 857 Transceiver; Yaesu ATAS 120a active tuning antenna; MFJ 1702C Antenna Switch; MFJ 461 Pocket CW Reader; ARRL Repeater Directory. Motion to Adjourn 7:41 p.m. A video presentation on the fundamentals of electronics followed the meeting..

## Riverland Amateur Radio Club Executive Board meeting

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

King Street Kitchen, La Crosse

*Present: Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, John Keiser, KD9FZX;*

Called to order at 5:56 p.m. by Holcomb

MINUTES June 21 board meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT Approved

LEADERSHIP Abts will chair the August club meeting.

Holcomb is at National Night Out.

SWAP Miller reported RF Adaptors paid for six tables. There will be more room. Volunteers for the event will be requested at the August club meeting. Set up at the Omni Center will start 6 p.m. Friday. No booths will be occupied until general set up is complete. Saturday volunteers are needed starting at 6:45 a.m.

ARES RACES Holcomb will make a presentation about Amateur Radio to area fire chiefs at their August meeting in the Town of Campbell.

WORKED ALL STATES Seaquist presented the Bill Wood, KE9XQ proposal to have a club activity involving Worked All States WAS. Also, Wood's proposal to have a club kit building session of the kit featured in the July QST. The proposals will be presented by Wood to the general membership August 2.

NPOTA Seaquist outlined his proposal for the club to do a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) activation of Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry, Iowa, August 27. He will present it to the general membership August 2, depending on permission from the NPS staff.

STRATEGIC PLANNING Board members discussed having the club engage in a strategic planning exercise. More discussion is planned for the August 16 Executive Board meeting.

PROGRAMS Seaquist will do a video presentation on NPOTA for the August club meeting. Holcomb may make a presentation on scanners for the September club meeting.

ADJOURN 7:27 p.m.