

# 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.

## SWAP FEST 2017

**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.



Swap Fest time is here. August 5 at the Omni Center in Onalaska, WI. You will never know what might turn up that you can not live without. As sellers travel many miles to set up tables and sell there excess equipment it is a great opportunity for you to pick up items that you need to complete a project that had been started long ago. Meet new and old friends as you browse what is available. Relax with a cup of coffee and good conversation. Stick around for a chance to win a new MFJ-226 Antenna Analyzer. See you there.



The radio went silent over the air waves. What did I do? I did move the radio from one location to another and thought I had everything hooked up properly before I transmitted but obviously I didn't because now I have no out put to the antenna. I rechecked all of my connections and all seem fine. Still no transmit. I can only assume that I did something wrong. Well look at it this way, now I have another project to keep me busy. As if I really needed that. This all happened in my Yaesu 767GX. So I have it pulled apart and checking components on the PA board, so far nothing wrong. I did discover the output cable from the antenna tuner was disconnected. Don't know how that would happen but maybe that is what caused the problem. Well I just thought I would let you know that I am still active in radio, just in a different way. It may be some time before I am back on with the Yaesu but keep listening for me as I will find the problem in time. Maybe not my life time though.

**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:

- August 5 (Swapfest)
- September 9
- November 11

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



**August 2017**

*3rd....Radio Station Tour, see below*

*5th.....Riverland ARC Swap Fest*

**AUGUST PROGRAM NIGHT**

**Something special for the August program night. It will be held on Thursday August 3 at 5:30 PM. Kevin, KC9ZGD will be giving us a tour of the radio station on HWY 35 in Onalaska, WI. This should be a very interesting tour so if you can make it I am sure you will not be disappointed. Any questions on this contact Kevin at 608-797-2975. Address is 1407 2nd Ave. North.**

# Ham researcher to investigate effects of solar eclipse

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

August 21 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many in the U.S. to see a total eclipse. It's also an opportunity for a team of Virginia Tech researchers to study the effects of the eclipse on changes in the upper atmosphere that have an impact on HF propagation and the global positioning system (GPS). Backed by research funding from NASA and the National Science Foundation, the team is headed by Dr. Greg Earle, W4GDE.

The Virginia Tech team plans to gather data from a variety of sources, including radar systems, transceivers, satellites, ham radio, and GPS receivers, in order to analyze the effects of the solar eclipse on the conductive region of the atmosphere.

"Whether military radar, or consumer GPS signals, the eclipse is going to have effects on the medium that we would like to understand better, so that we can either mitigate them or use them to our advantage," said Earle.

Here are a couple of links to news stories on the research team and the experiments:

[Virginia Tech team prepares for special project during total solar eclipse](#)  
[Virginia Tech expert to study August solar eclipse effects on radar, ham radio, GPS](#)

**Let's party!**

In conjunction with the eclipse, the HamSCI and the ARRL are sponsoring the [Solar Eclipse QSO Party](#). (SEQP). According to an article in the August 2017 issue of *QST*, the goal of the SEQP is to "flood the airwaves with contacts, all measured by the automated receiver networks of the Reverse Beacon Network, PSKReporter, and WSPRNet." Once all the logs are in, researchers will analyze the data to see what effect the eclipse had on radio propagation.

A YouTube video of a presentation at Dayton on the SEQP can be found at <https://youtu.be/3EviY2Cuxpo?list=PLihPo8xWmo8-xDYAtpP9BWX9QnhUoT7k4>

The SEQP will run from 1400Z - 2200Z on Monday, August 21. This is well before the eclipse is due to begin on the West Coast. The reason it starts before the eclipse is to establish a baseline for radio propagation conditions.

SEQP organizers urge you to make as many contacts as you can on as many bands as you can operate. Like nearly every contest, contacts are not allowed on 60m, 30m, 17m, and 12m. CW, RTTY, and PSK31 are the preferred modes because automated receivers can record those contacts, but phone and other digital modes count, too.

An interesting twist to this contest is that, like Field Day, you can earn a number of bonus points, including:

- Operating outdoors (100 points)
- Operating in a public place (100 points)
- Operating a wide-band automated receiver at your station (100 points)

Hams have had a long history of supporting scientific research. They provided communications for some of the polar explorations and listened for Sputnik as it flew overhead. The Solar Eclipse QSO Party continues this tradition and it's going to be a lot of fun as well. Visit the [HamSCI website](#) for more information.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](#), and is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and the CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun With Morse Code." You can reach him by emailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

# Monday July 17 , 2017 Executive Meeting

## MINUTES

Call to order: 5:00 pm

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

Approval of Minutes: June minutes approved without comment.

Treasurer's Report: Monthly report available upon request from Greg, K9LEC.

## Committee Reports:

Swap Fest Update, Greg, K9LEC– Several entries starting to come in now. Friday nite Aug 4 at 6:00PM will be set-up. Need some help at that time from anyone who's able. Set up time Sat Aug 5 will be 7:00AM. The "Connector Guy" has indicated he cannot make it, our ARRL Section Manager, KA1RB, will be attending. Also Roger sent out postcards as well.

Field Day – Dan, AB9TS, reports we make 142 contacts with 19 participants. He has a full report available upon request.

## Old Business:

August 3<sup>rd</sup> program nite has been confirmed at La Crosse Media Group. Meet there at 5:30.

Sept. program nite will be Carl with his Australia Travelogue.

Oct. program nite to be Keith Butler with an ARES/RACES presentation/update.

Nov. program nite to be Kevin with Analog vs. Digital scanner presentation.

November's meeting also should include nominations of trustees for the upcoming year, to be selected in December. It was also suggested to arrange an audit of the books in December.

KD9GVS will send a .PDF of the Constitution and By-Laws to Carl and Roger, also have a list of Trailer inventory and if anyone wants a copy, let KD9GVS know.

Club Shirt update – Kevin will check with Ad Concepts to see if any progress has been made, their business still having issues.

No update on the use of DPC's building for future Club meeting location. Kevin will look into by next month's meeting if possible.

## New Business:

Kevin appointed Carl, KC9HDS, to look into purchase of (2) sets headphones for Club use in the trailer, and to report back at next month's meeting. Currently have none that are useable. \$400 max to spend on these. Also Carl will look into purchase of a new "Mystery Antenna" for club use.

Motion to Adjourn : 6:13 pm