

# THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club WR9ARC



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.

## THE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

As time permits the club trailer improvements continue. As shown by the pictures the trailer is close to being completed to make it a self contained communication trailer. As shown in the picture at right the 2m/440 antenna is installed and the Atas 120A is installed. The Yaesu 857 is mounted and wired into the battery that is kept charged by the 4 solar panels tied to the side of the trailer. The other 2 HF radios are mounted and ready to go. They are tied to a thru the wall antenna coupling so any type of antenna can be set up after trailering to a location.

Below left is the entire bench showing all 3 radios mounted. Below right is the new mount of the Yaesu 857 that is tied into the Atas 120A. All works as the first contact with the Yeasu can attest to. It was with a special event station in Arizona. As the trailer sits all that is needed is to open the back doors and start making contacts. No generator is needed and no antenna set up is needed. That has been the goal from day one on this project. Thanks to the drive from the current board and members things are proceeding forward. Probably the next project is sand blasting and painting the wheels.



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

**Repeater**  
146.970 PL 131.8

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

**Club Meetings:**

**Trustee Meeting**  
3rd Tuesday 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**  
1st Tuesday of the  
month at 7:00 PM,  
Gunderson Clinic  
conference room 1  
in the lower level.

**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 consists of news and information of interest to the Amateur Radio community as a whole. Guest editorials and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome.

Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Greg Miller at KA9FOZ@gmail.com.

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 there 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 LaCresent, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.

Below are listed your RARC 2019 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS Email...ab9ts@yahoo.com

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

Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS Email...rckolter@gmail.com

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

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

Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ Email...ke9xq@charter.net

Repeater Trustee...Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC Email...ka9foz@gmail.com

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## RARC CLUB PATCH ORDER FORM

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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ club patches to the address below. I have enclosed \$3.50 for each patch ordered.

Send patches to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and check to: RARC Box 621 Onalaska, WI. 54650



# **RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST**

**AUGUST 10, 2019      8:00 AM to**

**Located in the Onalaska American Legion  
731 Sand Lake Rd. Onalaska, WI 54650**

## **ACTIVITIES FOR August 2019**

July 28...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is David, KD9EPN.

August 4...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Greg, K9LEC.

August 6...Program Night at Gundersen Lutheran. Yaesu PDN "portable digital node" demo  
-Rick KD9GVS

August 10...RARC Swapfest held at the Onalaska American Legion. License exams will be held during the swap fest.

August 11...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Carl, KC9HDS.

August 18...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, KKD9GVS.

August 25...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Kevin, KC9ZGD.

September 1...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, KB9OFK.

September 7...License Exams. Register 5 days in advance to Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 1-608-783-0723 or at readers@centurytel.net.

## Bill's Corner

Today let's talk about #1 religion, #2 politics and #3 women. That sounds like something to get your thought processes in an uproar.

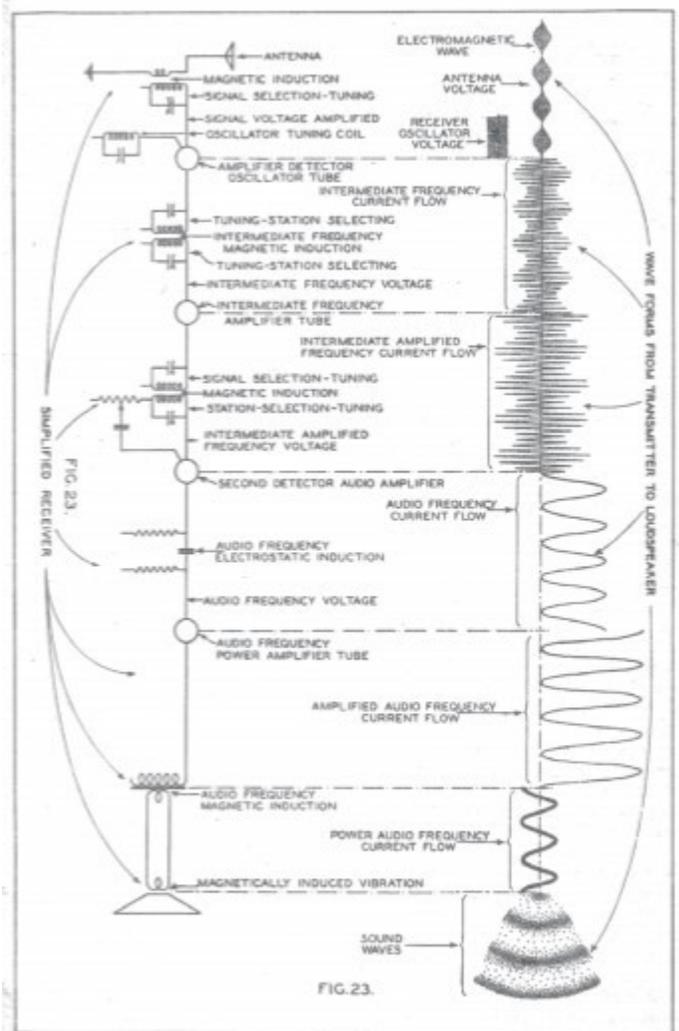
#1 Religion, not to preach but to work with... Yesterday I saw hams working an event that they had nothing to do with basically other than a civil service, and part 95 says we are a public service. There are a few events I would not participate in because of personal beliefs, but basically we as a whole would try to work with anybody such as our rallies, walk-a-thons and so on. Uncle Sam wants people like us to work with and for society. Having a good working relationship with that society could come in very handy in times of disaster or other important events. We could say more, but the actions held, spoke louder than the words that could be spoken. Thanks to all involved.

#2 Politics, Who amongst us does not have an opinion here and there on this volatile subject. You know, sometimes we call the kettle black while we are simmering in the pot. You can't win on most arguments and even if our politician voted on or against a certain subject does not mean he is for or against it. I think we all hate it when they throw in half a dozen bills on top of a bill you are for or against so who's going to win on that argument. : ) Ever vote for the lesser of two evils? Well, enough for the politics subjects, we know what this is one of the no-no's and we also know why.

#3 Women, we have tons to say, but bottom line you would not be here if it were not for one particular female. How lucky you are! Seems a contradiction to put them on a pedestal and yet turn around and make all kinds of jokes about them. Like that lady that poured her quart of oil all over her engine as the motor needed it. But jokes aside we love them and they are keepers for sure.

OK Folks I just had to talk about women, politics and religion at least once in this short series. One of the reasons we are not supposed to talk of these things is that Ham Radio is an international Sport/Hobby/Service and if we want to keep our conversations civil with one another we keep away from the hot topics and stay with more peaceable topics. Imagine if you will someday down the road or across the pond listening to your conversation and making a judgmental image of your country because of your actions and words. I know of folk that think we have whisky, hot coffee, and rare steaks for our breakfasts. Ask me about that sometime, I've already wasted enough time on these rabbit trails let's go on to the subject of radio for a change.

I've copied a page out of an old Sprayberry course that kind of shows the path an RF signal takes in order to make an audio signal come out of a speaker. Of course things change a bit in the digital age, but I love these diagrams as they give me a little better understanding of what goes on between point A and point B. While this is an over simplification of a typical radio of bygone days, you can mentally add the BFO or other audio or RF stages as you wish.



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# Mowing down QSOs...By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

For those of you who didn't already know, I recently decided to go a bit greener with my green and for my lawn. Confused? Well its like this. For several years I have had a pair of young guys mow my lawn for me. They did a fairly good job and were fairly reasonable. This worked out well for all concerned, but for one reason or another they were not able to continue with the mowing of my yard. So I looked around for someone else who would groom my lawn, but all that I could find would cost me about \$200.00 a month to have a service do my lawn. This seemed too much for what we needed to have done, so I thought the situation over and talked to my XYL, pointing out that with a riding lawn mower I could easily do the lawn myself and the money saved would pay for a rider fairly quickly.

That's what I thought until I did some research on riding lawn mowers. What I found was that I would be changing one form of labor for another. Most riding lawn mowers require a large amount of maintenance which was why I had hired someone else to do my lawns in the first place. Don't get me wrong, I have done all the maintenance required in the past, when I was much younger and more fit, I did all of my own maintenance on everything: house, cars, computers, and every other thing that needed fixing. I used to enjoy that, but as I grew older and had more and more outside commitments, it became less and less enjoyable for me or my family.



As I continued to check out riding lawn mowers, I found out that there were some that needed very little maintenance. Battery powered mowers need no gas, no oil, no belts, no spark plugs, no tune-ups, no hoses, and make little to no noise. They generally are more expensive initially but once passed the purchase price, there is very little expense, and they have the added advantage of being eco friendly with a very small carbon foot print.

After much consideration, I decided to get a battery riding lawn mower. I cut some of the expense by ordering it on line where there was no delivery fee. That was an important thing as to have it delivered locally would cost an added \$80. Plus by financing it through PayPal there was no interest for 6 months, and if paid in full by then there wouldn't be any added interest costs. After it arrived, I found that they had gone on sale for a \$300.00 savings. I called Home Depot and pointed out that I just took delivery on this fairly expense mower. They gave me a \$316.50 credit to my PayPal account. That enabled me to get the snow plow attachment for at virtually no cost!



All of this was great, but the really terrific thing is that this thing is a joy to use. I find myself hoping that the grass will grow faster so that I can get on it and cruise around my yard. I do mean cruise, it even has cruise control! As I drove it around, I couldn't help but think that what this thing lacks is an all band Ham Radio on it. So I figured out a way to install one on it. By recycling some of the material that was part of the metal crate that it was shipped in, I was able to make a fairly good modification to the mower. I added a Yaesu FT-857D, along with an ATAS 120A antenna and a dual band 2 meter 70 Centimeter antenna, all powered by a Lithium battery pack. Now I can make QSOs as I mow the lawn! Oh and of course it has a plate with my call sign on the back.

It has been described as being "AWESOME!!!" by Greg K9LEC, and I have to agree with that assessment of it.



# RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Monday July 15th, 2019 Executive Meeting

### MINUTES

**Call to order:** 2242 UTC, 5:42PM

**Members Present:** Dan Abts AB9TS, David Peters KB9EWG, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Drew Neve AB9NE, Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ, Bill Wood KE9XQ, Roger Reader KA9BKK

**Approval of Minutes:** June 17<sup>th</sup> 2019 minutes approved as written

**Treasurer's Report:** Available upon request from Drew AB9NE

### **Committee Reports:**

\* Field Day: Bill will drop a gift certificate to Mrs. Jostad as appreciation for using her property for our field day site once again. Dan presented our Field Day results to the group. Comments/suggestions for next year were discussed.

\* Repeater Committee: No progress as of yet. Dan will keep us posted on meeting with Van.

\* Drew passed around sign-up for club name badge orders. Will also pass around at next Club meet

### **Old Business:**

\* Trailer: no updates at this time

\* Swap Fest: We have received gift certificates from The RF Adaptor Guy and ARRL. Rick will procure the balance of the door prizes, \$250 is the budget. Advertising left to do for the Fest. Will make another announcement on La X Hams. We will conduct the 50/50 raffle again.

\*Fox Hunt – no updates

\*WIPOTA – 9-21-19 Kevin has volunteered to head this event.

\*Copeland Park event on 7-13-19 – went very well according to Dan and the other volunteers

\*upcoming monthly program topics:

August: Yaesu PDN "portable digital node" demo –Rick KD9GVS

September: APRS and tactical radio for public events

October: AB9TS lightning strike

November: Radio programming - possibly David KB9EWG

**Motion to Adjourn:** 0022 UTC, 7:22PM