

RIVERLAND
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB (RARC)
LA CROSSE, WI



THE KEY

ISSUE 8 FOR 2021

AUGUST 2021

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Tim Jacobson, N9CD, for earning the Rookie Award in this year's Wisconsin QSO Party. Tim scored a whopping 1822 points! On behalf of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club, we're very much happy for you!

73, Kelley KD9LQW



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings Club Members,

The Summer is flying by as usual, especially with all the Club activities we have been involved in so far this year. And more to come, as August 3rd will be the annual Pontoon boat ride, courtesy of Dan, AB9TS. Then August 7th is the Swapfest at the Onalaska Legion and finally in August is our Irish Fest participation on the 14th.

Please contact Shawn, KD9KGQ, if you are available on August 14th, we are in need of additional volunteers. We will have the Club trailer set up as a Special Event to hopefully make contacts with some other clubs in Ireland who have agreed to participate, all to coincide with the La Crosse Irish Fest celebration.

One important thing to note is hopefully by the September Club meeting we will have a Club shirt sample to "show and tell" and take orders for those members who are interested.

Remember that the RARC Club e-mail "reflector" is out there for all Club members to post an announcement, information, or question related to Ham radio. The address is members@rarc.qth.com.

Everyone is welcomed to participate in the Saturday morning "ragchew" on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 AM.

If you have any submissions for the Club Newsletter, The Key, please send them to our editor, Kelley Becker at kellyLL23@hotmail.com.

Also for your on-line purchases, please remember to try smile.amazon.com and designate 0.5% of your purchase to be donated to your favorite charitable organization, the RARC ! There is no cost to you and you get the same products, prices, and services as regular Amazon.

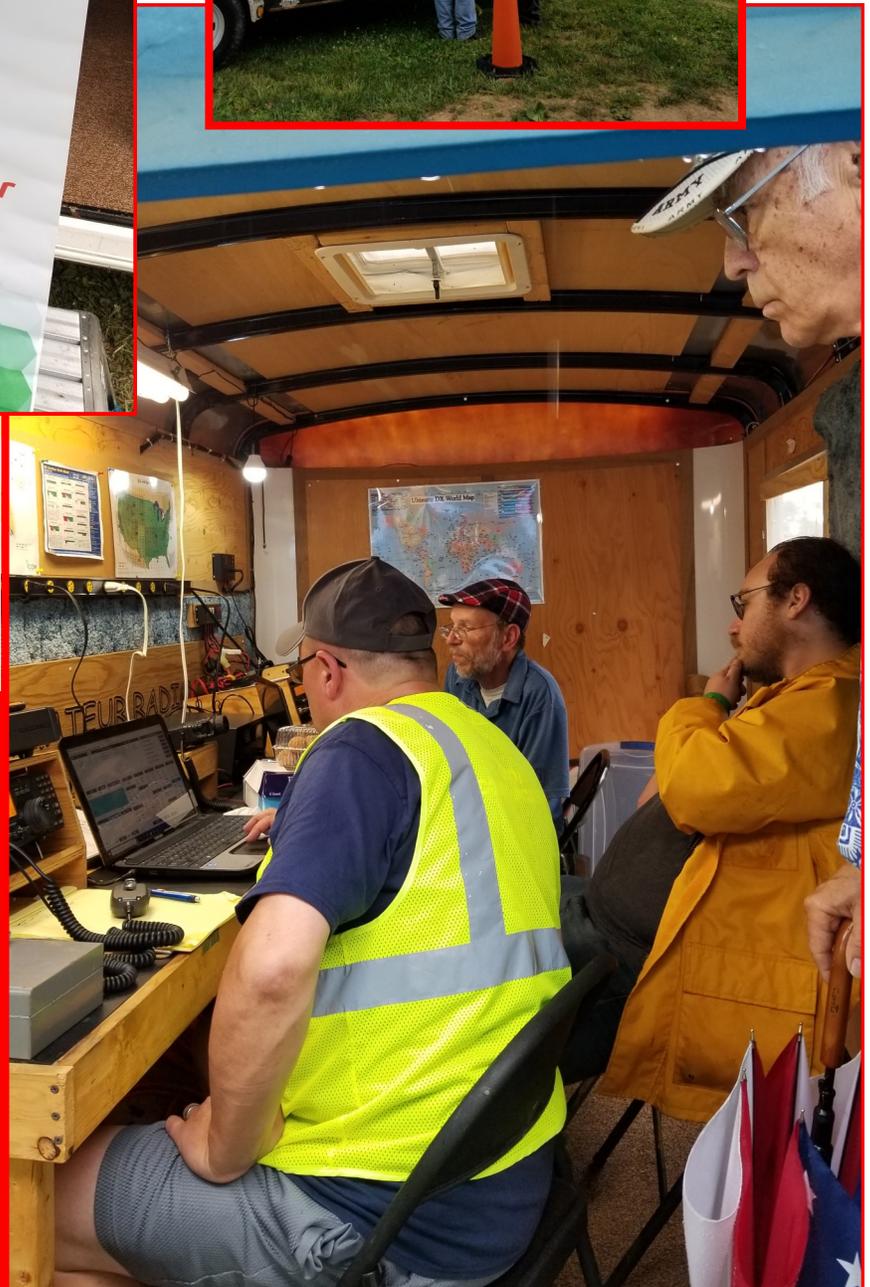
Feel free to contact me with any other comments or suggestions at rckolter@gmail.com.

73 for now,

Rick KD9GVS



ARRL FIELD DAY 2021



Some interesting stats from Field Day weekend:

- Total DX Miles (QSOs in USA not counted) = 12,420
- Total Contacts by Initials:

DAV	91
DRU	72
SC	16
DA	14
SAH	12
RHS	9
RK	9
RO	8
	5
SB	1

Weather or not....

In the past one of the safest topics of conversation has often been to talk about the weather, it may still be so. Weather is something that one cannot ignore. Oh yes, there are times when one becomes indifferent to our weather patterns, after all there is little that can be done about the current weather situation. At its best weather can be very pleasant and reassuring, but when it snows and when it blows, weather demands our attention. Because of the necessity to be aware of the status of the weather, especially when severe weather is upon us, we need to be vigilant and be prepared to deal with the adverse effects of weather. We may not be able to change the weather, but we can deal with it if we try. Under "normal conditions" it is fairly easy to deal with the weather that we experience in the Midwest. The trouble comes in when the weather is not "normal", you know what I mean, those times when the weather changes suddenly and we get caught unprepared for the change. Mostly though the weather he is fairly predictable. We are used to having 4 seasons of weather. Some say that the 4 seasons that we have are: "Almost Winter, Winter, Still Winter, and Road Repair". This assessment though somewhat humorous, is fairly accurate and most people here have grown accustomed to it being that way. Generally, this is the pattern of our expected weather experience.

Oh yes, there are times when things get a bit out of hand. One of the times that comes to mind for us older Hams is what is known as the "65 Flood". I was in High School at that time and when the floods came in over the Easter holiday, we were mostly caught flat footed. The flood was so serious that the Causeway was so full of water that there were people in boats going up and down it to get from the North Side to the South Side and back. Some people were fishing there and I can recall a friend of mine who caught a large Northern Pike there, a reporter from the La Crosse Tribune was with him and took a picture of him with his prize catch. The reporter did an article about it and put it with the photo on the front page of the La Crosse Tribune. Another image that was also posted in the Tribune was the image of E.R. "Boss" Schultz, a local beer distributor, standing waist deep in the water in the living room of his house that had been flooded. There were plenty of photos also of the volunteers who manned the dikes who made and carried sand bags to protect as much of our city as possible. Our High Schools were closed for over a week so that the students could help with the sand bagging effort. Meanwhile as if things weren't bad enough, our local TV station channel 8 caught fire and burned to the ground because the fire trucks couldn't get there in time to save it.

More recently, most of us can remember the tornado that went through La Crosse several years ago. This was especially surprising since there was an old Indian tradition that said that "Where three rivers meet there couldn't be a tornado." Fortunately, the resulting damage was fairly easily repaired and no one was hurt or killed. Our radio club members were on the spot relaying reports to the National Weather Service office on top of Grand Dad's Bluff. The tornado had knocked out most of the land line telephone service and the cell phone services were so flooded with calls that it was impossible to get a call through.

73 de KC9HDS, Carl
(member, & contributor)



Irishfest La Crosse Special Ham Radio Event

Greetings from La Crosse County, WI, USA

Irishfest La Crosse is a fun filled weekend in mid-August held in the city of La Crosse. In the past our festival has been able to attract talented musicians and entertainers from Ireland and the UK as well as from throughout the US. Even with this year's travel restrictions, we have an excellent lineup of entertainers that will surely bring out folks to our festival from around our region. While the festival does sell its fair share of adult beverages, the fest is more than just a "Drinking Fest". We offer family friendly events such as our Wee Folks tent where kids can come and play games and win prizes and listen to storytellers. We have a genealogy tent where folks can get help tracing their Irish roots. Festival attendees can come to see Irish based themes put on display in our Cultural tent. The fest also hosts its own Highland Games.

To add a little something different this year, our Irishfest La Crosse President thought it would be wonderful if the Hams from Riverland Amateur Radio Club could come down to the fest grounds and make radio contacts with other Hams in Ireland. Ideally, we would like to use the opportunity to introduce Ham Radio to the younger generation in attendance with their moms and dads. Our radio club members will be more than eager to make DX contacts in Ireland, but we would like for our Hams to partner with a fest attendee and give them an opportunity to chat with you. This would give them a chance to learn a little bit about the region in Ireland you live in and a chance for you to learn about us as well. The intent is to make this a low pressure fun filled experience with the chance to make some new friends and maybe inspire some festival attendees to take up the hobby as well.

The following is the current plan for operating while on the fest grounds:

- Operating Day – Saturday August 14th, 2021
- Operation Time – 11:00 am to 5 pm CDT (16:00 to 22:00 GMT)
- Operating Frequency – 14.260 MHz (we would move up from this frequency if it is in use)
- Additional Operation – Yaesu Fusion Wires X – Room 63956 via Riverland Amateur Radio Club's Repeater (we would also like to contact any club's Wires X room and would like know the room number in any return correspondence)

Listed below are the links to the radio club's website and the festival's website. Please take a moment and review each of them.

[W9UP Riverland Amateur Radio Club \(qth.com\)](http://qth.com)

[WELCOME TO IRISHFEST LACROSSE](#)

If you think your club would be interested in participating in this event please reply to this email address. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions and hope to hear from you soon.

Best Regards,

Shawn A. Hicks, KD9KGQ
(member, & contributor)



Call for volunteers for Irishfest

Fellow Members:

For those members who haven't heard, the Riverland Amateur Radio Club will be conducting a Special Event station during Irishfest La Crosse (held on the main Oktoberfest grounds) on Saturday August 14th. I am formally requesting volunteers to help with this event.

To date, the Ballymena Amateur Radio Club, East Leinster Amateur Radio Club, Mid-Ulster Amateur Radio Club, and the Shannon Basin Radio Club from Ireland have committed to making contacts with our Special Event Station.

In order to facilitate setup and tear for the event, I have broken down the event into (4) two hour shifts with each shift being manned by three to four hams. Those hams not directly operating on the radio and trying to make contacts would be asked to interact with festival attendees, particularly the younger generation. Members who can volunteer their time to the event will have free access to Irishfest La Crosse on Saturday and are welcome to spend the rest of the day after their shift enjoying the festival. Unfortunately, per Irishfest La Crosse policy non volunteering members will need to pay to get into the festival if they wish to come to the event.

The first shift would start at 10:00 AM that morning allowing for setup and tweaking before starting the Special Event at 11:00 AM. The main festival activities don't start until noon, so the first shift crew will likely not have much interaction with festival attendees. In order to make things run smoothly for the required volunteer check in at the festival, I need to provide the Irishfest Volunteer Coordinator a list of volunteers from our club and the time slots each member has committed to volunteering.

Shift 1 (10 AM - 12 PM)

Shift 2 (12 PM - 2 PM)

Shift 3 (2 PM - 4 PM)

Shift 4 (4 PM - 6 PM)

If you are interested in volunteering, please reply to this email indicating the shift you would like to work. If you are willing to work more than one shift, please indicate that as well.

73's, Shawn KD9KGQ





RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST

AUGUST 8, 2020 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM



Door Prizes

Vendors

Flea Market

Buy—Sell—Trade

New This Year:
Improved Tailgating Locations

Food Vendor

Handicap Accessible

ARRL Award Card Checks:
DXCC, VUCC, WAC, WAS, 160m



VE Test Session at 9:00 AM



Advanced Table Reserve And Entrance Form

Entrance Fee _____ x \$5.00 = _____

Table Reserve _____ x \$10.00 = _____ [Does not include Entrance Fee]

Limited electrical hook-up available on a 1st come 1st serve. Indicate here if you are requesting electrical hook-up
(Checking box does not guarantee availability of an electrical receptacle)

Advanced form will be held at the entrance table for you. No pre-fest mailings.

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Mail form and fee to:

RARC

Box 621

Onalaska, WI 54650

For further info call Carl Thurston at 608-317-4224 or e-mail kc9hds@juno.com

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday, July 19, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM at Perkins in Onalaska, WI.

Officers Present: Rick KD9GVS, Dave KB9EWG, Ron KD9OHQ, Drew AB9NE, Steve W9DXE, Shawn KD9GVS, Carl KC9HDS, Kelley KD9LQW, Dan AB9TS, Roger KA9BKK.



Approval of June 2021 minutes: Approval of June 2021 minutes: Minutes were approved as submitted in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Drew made the Treasurers report, and it was approved.

Officer's Reports: None.

Committee Reports: None.

Old Business:

- Newsletter Articles – for “The Key” should be sent to Kelley by the 26th of the month to make it into the newsletter.
- Carl KC9HDS donated a 1000-watt inverter unit for use in the club trailer.
- August 3rd Pontoon Boat Ride for Club meeting. This was postponed from July due to inclement weather, please let Dan AB9TS know if you plan to attend by RSVP to his email address, ab9ts@yahoo.com pickup will be at the 7th Street Boat Ramp behind Gundersen Health, at 6:30 PM.
- Carl's garage cleanout is underway, for further information see the June Newsletter.
- Swapfest August 7th A larger number of Donations have been received so far for door prizes a partial list is below.
 - (6) Easy Way Ham Books Donated by Craig Buck K4IA
 - Cable X-Perts – 2 each 25' RG-8U cable assemblies and 3 each 6' RG-8U cable assemblies
 - Heil Sound – 8 - t-shirts and 1 – Pro-7 headset
 - Mastrant – 3 each \$20 gift certificates w/\$30 minimum order
 - Yaesu – 25 hats, 2 mugs, 50 leaflets
 - \$50 gift certificate Features in Holmen (compliments of KD9GVS)
 - \$100 gift certificate from HRO
 - Steve W9DXE Speaker Boxes
- Kevin has been asked about his sound system for use at the Swapfest and it is available for club use.
- Kelley discussion of what we want to buy for the food and beverage table, it will be Kelley's discretion to obtain the food and beverages. Kwik Trip is donating gift cards that will be used in store to obtain Snacks etc..
- Irish Fest August 14th, Volunteers are still needed for the day of the event, remember to pre-register if you want to assist with the project to obtain free entry, if you are not on the list you will have to **pay to enter** even if you are coming to work the event. Contact Shawn KD9KGQ, eistim68@gmail.com or call him at 813-957-4057. This is **very important**, if you do not get on the list ahead of the event **you will have to pay** to enter the grounds the day of the event. There will be no exceptions, so if you plan to help at the special event station get on the list ahead of time. Shawn needs to have this finalized **by August 5th, 2021**.

New Business:

- A New Committee was proposed to be formed as a result of numerous issues arising out of lack of knowledge about how the Club Trailer operates. At the recent field days, the battery was found to be drained of power and is not accepting a recharge. Since there are members who are not familiar with the trailer operations and a need to keep up with maintenance and or updates is necessary a motion was made and seconded to form a Technical Committee for the Trailer to Support this function. Members nominated to be on the Committee are Carl KC9HDS, Dan AB9TS, Steve W9DXE, Shawn KD9KQG, and Rich W9TIT. Anyone else wishing to be on the committee should let the board know
- Club Shirts: Rick and Dan will meet down at the vendor to check things out this coming week.

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:15 PM

- * *Anyone who is a member of the Club are welcome to attend the RARC Board meetings.*

UPCOMING Events for August 2021

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

August 1, 2021	Rick kd9gvs
August 8, 2021	Wayne k0wlo
August 15, 2021	Shawn kd9kgq
August 22, 2021	Mark kb9ofk
August 29, 2021	Carl kc9hds

- ◆ Saturday morning Ragchew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM
- ◆ **August 3...**Program Night: in lieu of regular meeting is our annual postponed Pontoon ride from July, courtesy of the Abts family. We will leave promptly at 6:30 PM from the 7th Street boat landing. The landing is now pay to park, you can park on the street and walk-in if that is a problem for you. BYOB if desired. We will monitor the 97.
- ◆ **August 7...**Annual Swapfest at the Onalaska Legion, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- ◆ **August 16...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 06:30 PM, Onalaska Perkins. All members are welcome to attend.



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO

- Everyone has what they need this month. No submissions made.

* *Send your Amateur related classified ad to Kelley, NLT the 26th of each month to kelleyLL23@hotmail.com*

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: Kelley Becker at KelleyLL23@hotmail.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 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 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 2021 Board of Trustees and contact information.

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

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

Secretary.....Ron Severson, KD9OHQ Email...ronaldhseverson54@gmail.com

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

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

Trustee.....Steve Becker, W9DXE Email...sbecker54656@yahoo.com

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

Newsletter Editor.....Kelley Becker, KD9LQW Email...kellyLL23@hotmail.com