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The Swap Meet of 2014 remembered...

Every once in a while, things click into place and every thing runs smoothly. This best describes the 2014 Swap Meet that was held at the Onalaska Omni Center on the 9th of August. Oh yes, there were those who said that they would be there that weren't and there were those who said that they couldn't make it but did. It all sort of balanced out. 31 tables were set up for the sellers to use and 25 of them were filled with all manner of radio/electronic related stuff. The venue was perfect, the food and beverages were reasonably priced and of unexpectedly good quality. The weather was perfect for the tailgaters who were amassed out in the parking lot. The door prizes were plentiful and well received. ARRL representatives were present and the VE testing went well, one young lady passed her Tech Class license.

It was truly amazing how so many members pitched in to make this event work. There was no lack of help to set up the tables Friday night, to run the talk in radio station, or to help clean up afterwards. Even one member, Roger N9RWU, who couldn't make it to the event helped out by borrowing the squirrel cage from the American Legion needed for the door prize and raffle drawings. Those in attendance came from as far away as Green Bay, WI, Cottage Grove, MN, and Stevens Point, WI, to name a few.

Usually I run into all sorts of problems trying to get ready for a Swap Meet. For the last several years, my old adversaries the Gremlins did their best to foil my efforts.

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UPCOMING Events for July 2023

- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **August 1...** Monthly meeting at UU La Crosse
- ♦ **August 5...** Swapfest at Bethany Church
- ♦ **August 21...** Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable. All members are welcome to attend.

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

August 6, 2023
August 13, 2023
August 20, 2023
August 27, 2023

Shawn kd9kgq
Mark kb9ofk
David kd9epn
Rick kd9gvs

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello, RARC Members and Friends!

I checked in to the Sunday Night Net last night, and was happy to hear the continued participation of so many hams checking in. It is reassuring to know that there are a number of people who find ways to take part in the club's activities.

As we are in the middle of summer right now; there are several operating events we've run, and several more yet to go. Some of our more popular events are those that connect with the community at large. We have a number of people who enjoy the St. Patrick's Day Parade (along with the celebration at the Freight-House afterwards), and the MS Walk. It is a source of pride to know that your efforts help events run smoothly and keep people safe.

We have added another event like that this year. The folks at Gundersen Health System reached out to us this year to ask about our interest in helping with their marquis "Steppin' Out in Pink" event for breast cancer awareness. I can't think of many needs that are more worthy of support.

The event will be held on September 9. I met with Olivia Moths of Gundersen a few months ago. She described their needs and why they asked for our help. They have folks all across the marsh paths during this event. They realized that there was a problem getting communications to people on the route during a weather scare last year. Our name came up as a resource to help with that, and they realized that coordination along the routes could be of benefit in more ways than just during weather emergencies. Olivia showed me the route, the rest stops they have, and the places where she thought our communications volunteers might be positioned.

She has accepted my invitation and will join us at our meeting on August 1. We'll have the chance to get any updates and the rest of the club can get the full description of how we can contribute as well as ask any questions. I hope we have a strong attendance at that meeting to make a good showing for our guest.

The weekend following that meeting will be our Swapfest. We have a number of jobs that still do not have volunteers to help fulfill. We'll discuss that at the Aug. 1 meeting as well. Please plan to attend and help with both the Swapfest and Steppin' Out in Pink.

Tnx es 73,

Drew Neve

AB9NE





RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SWAPFEST

AUGUST 5, 2023

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Located at Bethany Church La Crosse

3936 County Rd B, La Crosse, WI 54601

Talk in: 146.970 PL 131.8

Door Prizes
Flea Market
Buy—Sell—Trade
Tailgating Locations Available
Food Vendor
Handicap Accessible



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 Scott Cross at 319 432 1070 or email kb3mkd@arrrl.net

The Swap Meet of 2014 remembered (Continued)

Oh the Gremlins did their best to distract me from my task. First our water heater stopped working on a Friday night leaving us with no hot until my brother could come over Monday evening to fix it. Then the next week, as I was getting things sorted out, Roger KA9BKK came by and asked if I got his phone messages. When I checked the phone, it was dead. Upon investigation it was found the the wall phone in my garage was ripped off of the wall and the phone was off the hook.

I can not prove that Gremlins had anything to do with either of these events, but the phone being ripped off of the wall in my garage is just plain too coincidental to be ignored. These things slowed me a bit but I was resolute in my determination to improve things for the Swap Meet. I managed to go to the Swap Meet where I sold a boat load of stuff and refrained from buying anything. Several of the club members couldn't see me leave empty handed, gave me a code key and oscillator, 2 software simulators, and what would a Swap Meet be without someone giving me a battery box with two dead batteries in it? So I went home richer because of what I sold, gave away, and received. What more can you ask of a Swap Meet?

73 Carl

KC9HDS



- *Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net*
- *Include "The Key" in the subject line*

For Sale:

Gin pole and climbing belt \$125.00

Contact Greg K9LEC at 608-792-7841

BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO

Tidbits

Tower less

As of this month I am Tower less, I guess I can call it that.

Ever since I have been a HAM I have had a 50 ft. tower and a Mosley TA-33 antenna alongside of my house. Giving credit where credit is due it was thanks to my HAM Father. Recently I have been thinking about taking it down because the rotor quit working some time ago. To use the antenna it all depended on which direction the wind blew it. Climbing the tower to repair it was not in my job description so there it sat.

A visit from another HAM gave me the opportunity to sell it and get it down. So in just 1 afternoon I am what I call Tower less. I still have a 5 band vertical on top of my shack and a 5 band trap dipole. So Tower less=yes, Frequency grounded=no.

Greg K9LEC



KB9BMX Steve Kelner's paint job on the trailer. Looks pretty good.

We have a bunch of stuff for door prizes at the swap meet.

We have books, a powerpole kit, ARRL coupons, and an Icom IC-V80 HT.

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 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. 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 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 La Crescent, 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 Fork and Fable Restaurant, Jackson and 16th streets, La Crosse 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.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

Vice-President.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

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

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