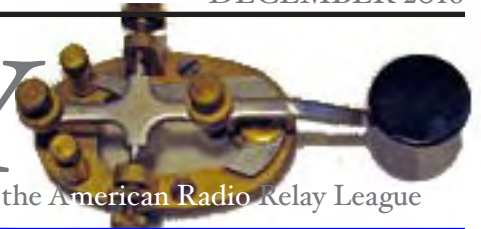


# THE KEY

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



## Last issue

"The Key" will be QRT after this issue. This publication has been every month for at least seven years promoting upcoming club activities, documenting club activities, offering new and different avenues of Amateur Radio, and having some fun. We tried to help create a "community" in the club by letting you know what is going on in the group and in Amateur Radio.

I hope you've enjoyed reading "The Key" and that it helped you be more enthusiastic, maybe you even learned a little and that you were better for it. I was.

- 73, Bob, W9LSE



## Skywarn event Dec. 3



**The National Weather Service (NWS) La Crosse office will host Skywarn Amateur Radio Recognition Day Sat. Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Groups and club members that help out with storm spotting are invited to visit that day and help make contacts around the country.**

Local clubs will have several HF rigs connected and ready for visiting Hams to help operate for short stints.

"We hope you can make it. Help spread the word. Let your club members know," said Todd Shea, KB9YXS, Warning Coordination Meteorologist.

The La Crosse NWS office is located on the bluffs at N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse.

The annual SKYWARN Recognition Day on the air activity takes place 0000 until 2400 UTC Saturday starts on the evening of Friday, Dec. 2, in US time zones.

The object of the event is for all participating Amateur Radio stations to exchange contact information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters plus 70 centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

Stations will exchange call signs, signal reports, locations, and a one or two word description of the weather at their respective locations e.g., "sunny," "rainy," "partly cloudy," "windy". NWS stations will use various modes, including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While using digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call signs e.g., N0A/NWS.

Event certificates will be electronic and printable from the main web site after the conclusion of SRD. An online submission form [www.arrl.org/srd-form](http://www.arrl.org/srd-form) is available to submit your log summary for SRD. For more information go to [www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/)

### Riverland Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, Wis. 54650

### RARC Net

8 p.m. Sundays on the 146.970 repeater.

### Club meetings

7 p.m., Tuesday, meeting room 1, lower level, Gundersen/Lutheran La Crosse.

**Elmer session** 6 p.m.

### RARC Web page

<http://rarc.qth.com/>



# Calendar

**Sat. Dec. 3**

➔ Skywarn Recognition Day, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., National Weather Service office, N2788 County Road FA, La Crosse.

**Tue. Dec. 6**

➔ Riverland Amateur Radio Club Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., Gundersen Clinic, La Crosse, lower level conference room 1. "Elmer" session, 6 p.m.

**Sat. Dec. 10**

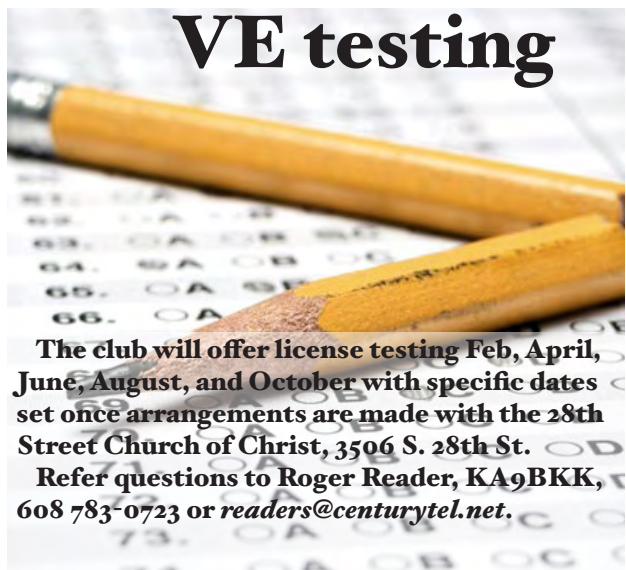
➔ ARRL 10 meter Contest, 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday

**Tue. Jan. 3**

➔ Riverland Amateur Radio Club Annual Holiday Party, 6 p.m., social, 7 p.m., dinner, Schmidy's Restaurant, 3119 State Rd., La Crosse.

**Sat. Jan. 7**

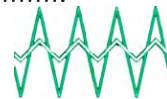
➔ West Allis Radio Amateur Club Ham Radio, Computer and Electronics Swapfest, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Waukesha County Expo Center Arena, 1000 Northview Rd., Waukesha.



## VE testing

**The club will offer license testing Feb, April, June, August, and October with specific dates set once arrangements are made with the 28th Street Church of Christ, 3506 S. 28th St.**  
**Refer questions to Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783-0723 or [readers@centurytel.net](mailto:readers@centurytel.net).**

## President's Frequency Modulation



By Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD



Greetings and welcome to the holiday season. Some are thinking of events in Ham radio such as the Skywarn Recognition Day, Winter Field Day coming up, and just overall operating. Others may be thinking of "Ham" gifts they may get this year, our club holiday party, or just family. In either way, we are all so busy this time of year.

Don't forget to attend our December meeting and helping elect a new executive board. All club members should be a part in our decisions for officers.

Keeping up with the holidays with family, decorations, and shopping can be a bit much. I suggest you take time out to operate your radio. It is essential for our hobby and keeping our skills sharpened not to mention lowering your holiday stress level. We have plenty of winter to get things done around the house, but why not monitor our '97 repeater and chime in from time to time and keep it alive? When you key your mic it may encourage others to operate or get out of their shells.

Enjoy the holiday season, don't over do it, and let's keep our wonderful hobby alive and strong. Happy holidays to you all and a wonderful Ham filled new year!

## Membership renewal time

Club members should have received, or soon will receive, in the mail, a renewal notice. It's that time! Riverland dues are still only 20 for an individual and 25 for a family.

Return your membership form and payment ASAP to Riverland Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 621, Onalaska, WI 54650.

If you have already paid the dues, complete and send the membership form which is on page 5 marked "paid."

Each member is expected to assist with at least two activities. Member participation is essential if RARC is to flourish.

## 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.

## Holiday party Jan. 3

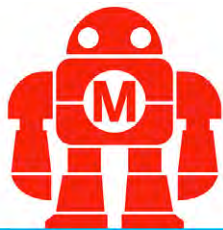
Join your fellow Riverland Amateur Radio Club members for holiday festivities Tuesday, Jan. 3, at the familiar Schmidty's Restaurant, 3119 State Rd, La Crosse.



There will be a family-style dinner of familiar American fare in unpretentious surrounds. The price is \$13.99 + tax + tip. A social hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m.

## Be a Ham *and* a Maker

If you've been following the Arduino and Raspberry Pi trends and the DIY people you know there are a ton of people that are interested



**Maker Faire**

in technology and making things. I got on this thread of thought by the author of a book from the ARRL group on Arduino and Pic, I can't remember the full title at the moment, but I'm sure many of you know of which I speak...

If we widen our horizons, then maybe we can help others widen theirs.

Watch this video and you can catch a feel for the subject at hand: <https://www.raspberrypi.org/picademy/>

There are many Youtube videos on both Arduino and Raspberry Pi boards, and I

did a search on the Google train, and it brought me to dozens and dozens of stations, depending on how you searched. Whole books

on the subjects are out there in PDF format so you do not have to spend an arm and a leg to get on the Band Wagon.

I know a bunch of you are already playing with Arduino and Raspberry Pi boards, so there a possibility to get our own Maker group started. Lets expand our horizons not only for the fun of the subjects at hand, but also to maybe help these other folk that do not know about Amateur Radio, to, in turn, expand their horizons a little more.

- Bill Wood, KE9XQ



"Elves" Carl Thurston, KC9HDS, left, and Dan Abts, AB9TS, collect trash at Rotary Lights Sat. Nov. 26. The Riverland Club has helped the event almost since its inception.

## Club members brighten Rotary Lights

Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho! Christmas lights are brighter in La Crosse with the assistance of Riverland Amateur Radio Club members. The club is called upon to help with the city's tradition of Rotary Lights in Riverside Park. Dan Abts, AB9TS, chairs the project for the club; he decorated the club's tree topped with a yagi, of course. Friday night's parade through downtown included a club unit operated by Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD, and finally, eight members showed up bright and early Saturday, Nov. 26, for clean up duties in the park.

In past years club members searched for *the* burned out bulb in a string but LEDs eliminated that chore. This year it was picking up trash bags and cleaning toilets.

Believe it or not, Rotary Lights is one of two fund raisers for the RARC the other is the Swapfest in August. It's easy, it's social at the breakfast before the work detail, and it's good for the community.

Those participating Saturday included: Scott Cross, KB3MKD, John Keiser, KD9FZX, Art Osborn, W0JDC, Roger Reader, KA9BKK, Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, Carl Thurston, KC9HDS, Bill Wood, KE9XQ and Abts.

## Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2016

Called to order at 7 p.m. by Vice President Dan Abts

### ATTENDANCE

*Dan Abts, AB9TS; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Rick Kolter, KD9GVS; David Ruscher, KD9EPN; Mike Mohler, W9MBM; William Wood, KE9XQ; David Peters, KB9EWG; Larry Worthington, KC9HDP; Art Osborn, W0JDC; Van Elston, WA9FIO; Roger Reader, KA9BKK; Scott Cross, KB3MKD.*

**HAM PRAYER** By Dan Abts

### MINUTES

Approved as presented

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Greg Miller, KA9FOZ. Treasurer presented a new policy: The club checking account would be limited to 700. The club savings account would require the signatures of the president and treasurer to access. Approved.

### ROTARY LIGHTS

Dan Abts said this is a major fund raiser for the club. The RARC is assigned to various jobs, if needed, Saturday, Nov. 26. At least six club members are required from 9 a.m. Noon. Breakfast will be 7:45 a.m. at the King Street Kitchen. Help is also needed to trim the club's tree. The following signed up to fulfill the club's obligation: *Scott Cross, KB3MKD; Art Osborn, W0JDC; Rick Kolter, KD9GVS, Roger Reader, KA9BKK; Bill Wood, KE9XQ; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.*

### SHACK SHARE

David, KD9EPN. Bill Wood, KE9XQ, will present in December.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Apparel:** John Keiser not present. Some interest in exploring less expensive items or cheap shirts with club logo.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Nominations for officers:** The following individuals were nominated to serve on the new executive board: *Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Bill Wood, KE9XQ; David Ruscher, KD9EPN, Rick Kolter, KD9GVS, Carl Thurston, KC9HDS; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Scott Cross, KB3MKD; Roger Reader, KA9BKK\*; David Peters, KB9EWG.* \*as trustee, Reader is automatically on the board There are six positions plus the Trustee. Those elected then select president, vice president, secretary and treasurer from among themselves.

**Sunday Night Net:** if NCS misses then members should take the initiative to pick up the NCS duties

**Newsletter:** Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, will not produce the newsletter, "The Key," after the December issue. No one expressed interest in continuing the newsletter.

**Skywarn Recognition:** Saturday, Dec. 3, at the NWS office. Roger Reader, KA9BKK, should be notified if his Mystery Antenna is needed.

Adjourn

A video presentation on the fundamentals of electronics, program #8, followed the meeting.

## Riverland Amateur Radio Club

### Executive Board meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016

### King Street Kitchen, La Crosse

*Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD, Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, Roger Reader, KA9BKK.*

Called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Holcomb

**Minutes** of Oct. 18 Board meeting approved.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| October checking balance | 1,970.45 |
| Transfer to savings:     | 1,200.00 |
| New checking balance     | 770.45   |
| Savings balance          | 5,642.15 |
| New member dues          | 20.00    |
| Cash                     | 30.00    |
| Club treasury            | 6,442.79 |

Greg postponed getting two signatures for the savings account until election of the new board and executive committee.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Rotary Lights:** Seven signed up to work for the club's Rotary Lights obligation; six is the minimum.

**Nominations:** the following individuals were nominated at the general membership meeting to serve on the new executive board: Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Bill Wood, KE9XQ; David Ruscher, KD9EPN, Rick Kolter, KD9GVS, Carl Thurston, KC9HDS; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Scott Cross, KB3MKD; Roger Reader, KA9BKK\*; David Peters, KB9EWG. \*as trustee, Reader is automatically on the board

**Holiday Party:** Kevin reported arrangements with Schmidty's. He will give a head count to the restaurant following the December meeting. usually 30 35 . He also will purchase party gifts. Reader suggested sending a reminder mailing to members that do not regularly attend. No action.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Newsletter:** no one has stepped up to produce the newsletter after the December issue. Seaquist will help whomever does express interest.

**Skywarn Recognition:** Kevin was asked to speak with Craig Goldbeck of MVARA to coordinate gear and antennas for the event.

**SwapFest:** Greg reported that the Swapfest will be Saturday, August 5, at the Omni Center. Cost, space and set up arrangements are the same.

**VE Testing:** Roger KA9BKK and Bill KE9XQ plan VE testing Feb, April, June, August, and October with specific dates set once arrangements are made with the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Church of Christ, 3506 S. 28th St.

ADJOURN 6:20 p.m.

*Submitted by Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, secretary*



# Riverland Amateur Radio Club Membership

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Member dues \$20

or

Family membership dues \$25 (covers all members of immediate family in the household)

Names and call signs (if any) of family members

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Submit dues by  
January 15**

Contributions for special projects or general operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated purpose \_\_\_\_\_

(Contributions may be applied to tax deductions)

**Total dues and contributions enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Return this form and a check to the treasurer at the January club meeting or mail it to:

**RARC  
Box 621  
Onalaska,  
Wisconsin 54650**

My interests include:

Public Service  DX  Construction  Boat Anchors  QRP  Ragchew

Suggest program topics that would interest you, that you could present, or persons who possibly could make presentations.



## Participate, volunteer, serve, Elmer!

Most of us have benefited greatly from mentors or “Elmers” in our Amateur radio development and learning. It is a longterm and valuable part of the culture and tradition of our hobby. While the internet has provided alternate channels for learning, the personal one on one learning process is a time tested success story. Take the opportunity to play this forward to the new or younger ham. Don't take it for granted that someone else will do it.

The same is also true for providing service to your radio club. The club is the primary focus of local amateur radio activities and the club provides the many hands approach to getting things done. When some help is required on the radio club board or committee, don't simply say “Why should I do that?” Or “I did that once.”

The club gets its energy and drive from the core members that serve on these committees and boards and as officers. Come forward and volunteer to help. Too often the same folks serve for years on end in these positions simply because no one else will volunteer to help. All organizations need fresh blood and ideas to grow and survive. In all fairness, if you want your club to succeed and prosper, you need to add your energy and row the boat for a while. It is unfortunate but sometimes a burned-out officer needs to flat out quit for someone to volunteer. I know that is happening right now in our state. This is not a tough job.

- Skip Jackson, KS0J, MN SM



## 10 meter contest Dec. 10-11

Ten meters may seem dead but as Mark Twain once said, “the reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.” Ten meters will be very much alive Dec. 10-11 with the running of the 44th annual ARRL 10 Meter Contest. It starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday.

Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band. This popular event is lots of fun, and you never know what sort of propagation you might encounter on 10 meters.

These conditions can also provide a great training ground and experience for new contesters and a relaxing environment for the long timers. With reduced QRM levels and the band not sounding like a madhouse, the 10 Meter Contest in low sunspot years is a welcome place with interesting propagation and clear frequencies for calling CQ.

## Weather Net needs you

Do you enjoy using your hobby to work for a cause, e.g., ARES/RACES, SKYWARN, or Public Service events? If so, here is another one that could use your help collecting important weather data at your home for the National Weather Service.

Every morning a number of Wisconsin amateurs check into one of the nation's oldest NTS nets the Badger Weather Net, BWN, on 3984 KHz or via any of the Wisconsin WeComm repeaters <http://wecomm.org/index.php/wecommvoice> or Echolink W9YTR node to report the 24 hour high and low temperature plus precipitation and, in the winter, snowfall. This data is used by the NWS to fine-tune their WSR-88D radar precipitation estimate algorithms. It is also used to provide input to the NWS River Forecast Models, FEMA to determine amount of disaster relief, FAA, etc. A very worthwhile public service cause!

So, before you jump into your car for the ride to work, just check into the BWN and give your figures to the Pickup Station on duty. You're in and out in a couple of minutes! The BWN operates 7 days a week from 5 a.m.

7:15 a.m. For more information, contact Don Michalski, W9IXG, [w9ixg@arrl.net](mailto:w9ixg@arrl.net). More reporting stations are needed!