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Drifting along with the Driftless...

Those in attendance at the last RARC membership meeting were rewarded with a very good presentation. Even though this presentation had nothing to directly associate it with Amateur Radio. Tim Jacobson N9CD, one of our members, was the presenter. He has worked with the people who produced the various videos that deal with the Driftless Region. His expertise in the making of these videos is extensive and his ability to show and explain the technical and graphic sides of their production is vast. He, along with an extensive group of dedicated individuals, both professional and amateur enthusiasts who made these videos is impressive and the resulting displays of their work is easy follow and to understand. Their contribution to the subject has gained many awards and they have created a number of educational packages that many schools in and out of the area use to explain this subject. Their mix of professional and amateurs make this a most easily and entertaining presentation. We were shown a series of maps, videos and diagrams of the Driftless area that illustrated features and the importance of our region.

In case you weren't aware of it, we live in the middle of this geological area. Because of the fact that the glaciers of the various Ice Ages didn't cover our area, we have benefited from the fact that our area only experienced the melt waters flowing from those glaciers. That the action of those melt water carved the valleys and terrain that we locally call the coulee region. This is a most unique and important occurrence that has resulted from the lack of glaciation here.

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UPCOMING Events for December 2022

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

December 4, 2022	Shawn kd9kgq
December 11, 2022	Mark kb9ofk
December 18, 2022	David kd9epn
December 25, 2022	Rick kd9gvs
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **December 6...**Monthly club meeting at UUF La Crosse
- ◆ **December 19...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable (formerly Arterial Bar and Grill) All members are welcome to attend.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings to all Club Members,

This will be the last newsletter column you will see from me as your club president. As previously mentioned I don't plan on running for a position on the board in 2023. I will be taking on more responsibilities next year with my involvement in Irishfest La Crosse. The current Irishfest treasurer wants to step down and I am being asked to step into this role. In doing so I don't feel I will have the time and energy to commit to the service of the club in a board member capacity. Even if I did, to be honest I think there are other members in the club more qualified than me and would be better suited to serve on the board. I still plan on being an active member of the club and submitting newsletter articles as time permits, but I think it is time for a new face and fresh ideas to come to the service of the club.

Without a commitment from the members at large, there is a risk of this club perishing. Having been in existence for some 50 years, I don't think anyone wants that to happen. COVID-19 certainly has not helped. It has caused a strain on not just our club but on clubs and organizations worldwide. However we can't to continue to use that as an excuse. It seems obvious to the board members that we need new ham members for our club to continue and grow in the future. That isn't to say we don't need our longtime members to be active and engaged. Without the involvement of our longtime members in

club activities and the knowledge and experience they bring to the activity, how are we to attract these new hams to our club? This is the question the board wrestled with at the last board meeting. I'm sorry to say we didn't come up with any magic recipe to solve the issue.

With the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions allowing in person meetings, in combination to having some really good presentations lined up for each meeting the board was hoping that we would have gotten back to our pre-COVID-19 club meeting attendance. Unfortunately that has not materialized. Other club events have had the same attendance issue. We are not going to attract new hams or at least keep them for very long if they don't witness an active and vibrant group when they show up for an event.

I'm hopeful we will have members in attendance at our December 6th club meeting and that they be willing to step up and run for a position on the board. I'm also hopeful that the 2023 board with the support of the club members at large can inject new life into our organization with an influx of new ideas and activities. I want this club to continue long into the future.

Until we meet in person or chat on the radio, I bid you 73.

Shawn, KD9KGQ



Thoughts ...

As the year grinds down to its end, there are some things that we might consider, like what did we do right and what could have been done better. All in all, the RARC did a lot of things this year that were both among our usual activities and there were also a few items that were over due. Oh yes, we did all of the usual events that are on the calendar every year, like Field Day, Winter Field Day, our Annual Picnic, SwapFest, SkyWarn and the rest of the recurring events. Added to that list are some things that needed to be addressed.

Our Constitution and Standing Rules has caused confusion and made some of our members uneasy as to how to facilitate the things outlined in them. It took a lot of soul searching and consideration of the causes and effects of those documents and how to make them more workable and easy to follow. Thanks to the efforts of many of our members a much more usable set of rules were written, discussed and perfected, and it is hoped it will result in a more meaningful and understandable set of guide lines for the continued progress of our club.

Our old Constitution and Standing Rules were both time worn and contradictory in some places and they needed to be streamlined and revised. After much work, our Executive Board was able to rectify them. It was also, thanks to the action of our membership who achieved a quorum and voted to pass the changes quickly and easily, that we now can move forward with confidence that the needed actions of our club can happen.

Some of the other things that needed attention were: our Special Services designation was updated and a revised agenda outlined. These things were needed to keep our 501(c)3 certification. Our current Executive Board has been in place for a long time, and it has grown weary of the duties and responsibilities of running our club, so an extra effort has been made to see that there will be a smooth transition to our new new Executive Board. On that note, we are still look-

ing for members willing to be nominated to serve on the next Executive Board. Planning for new suggested presentations and projects for this next year's membership meetings have been laid out. The Executive Board has worked to make the transition to the new Board as easy and smooth as possible. Every effort has been made to ensure that the next Executive Board will be able to assume it's duties with little effort.

Ours is an old and established organization that has fared well with the changes needed for it to continue to move forward. In the past we have always had members who were willing to step up and do what was needed for our club to thrive. It is expected that that tradition will continue for many more years. Any members willing to serve on the Board are encouraged to allow themselves to be nominated to the next Executive Board. Anyone who thinks that they might be willing to serve on the Board, can be assured that the previous Board will be willing to help mentor the new members as they assume the roles of the various offices on that Board.

Our out going Board has served us well, but they are in need of new ideas and new members to see that things continue to work for our club. Even the best set of officers have a tendency to wind down after a time so new Board members are a must. Please feel free to make suggestions and consider being an officer on the next Executive Board. Remember, the RARC needs new ideas and new officers so you are all encouraged to get more active in the business of running our club.

73 de Carl kc9hds



Editors note. I reprinted this from last month because it is so important.

Drifting along with the Driftless... (continued)

Our local topography is distinctly different from anywhere out side of this region. No where else can this type of terrain be found. There are many diverse flora and fauna that flourish here as a result. There are also some geothermal systems at work here that make this area different. Because of the melt waters from the receding glaciers, there are many underground caves that were formed as a result, that stretch for many miles under this region. A vast number of pot holes are also to be found here.

The resulting landscape is unique yet many people from elsewhere find it very similar to their home areas. This is especially true of people from the Nordic and Germanic countries. This may account for the large number of immigrants from those countries that decided to settle here. The rich soil and gentle hills make this a very desirable area for farming. There are many dairy farms found here as well as a large number of acres under cultivation for many grain and other vegetable crops.

All of these things make our region a place that many who come here feel right at home. The coulee region, with its valleys and broad planes bordered by tall bluffs makes for a cozy sort of place to live.

If you missed this presentation, you can still find out a lot about this subject as there are several documentary videos that have been made and are being made about the Driftless Area and the Coulee Region. You can find more information on this from these sources: <https://driftlesswisconsin.com>, <https://driftless.caves.org>, <https://www.knowitall.org/video/driftless-area-mystery-outdoors>, and many other sources.

73, Carl KC9HDS



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



Wanted: Articles for The Key

Please submit your Article by the 26th of the month and include "The Key" in the subject line.

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

Looking for items for this space

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: Scott Cross KB3MKD@arrl.net. Please include the word "Key" in the subject line of your submission.
- * 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 Fork and Fable 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 Saturdays 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.....Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

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