



INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

ISSUE 12 FOR 2024

DECEMBER 2024

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Happy Holidays | 1 |
| President's Comments | 3 |
| Buy, Sell, Trade, ISO | 4 |
| Club Info | 5 |

Happy Holidays...

With the up coming Holiday Season, it is difficult to think of something other than the Holidays. Normally there is something that comes to mind that is radio related but all that seems to fit at this time is the wish that we find that this Holiday Season will find us all truly grateful for what we are about to receive.

This Holiday Season feels different than what has happened on past Holidays. Could it be the unseasonable weather that we are experiencing? Or maybe it is because of the lack of some interesting content on mass media. A vacuum seems to now exist that is drawing in more topics that have been absent from our view for so long. Whether this is a good thing or not, only time will tell.

As the days grow shorter and the nights get longer, it does put one more in the usual mood for the upcoming Holidays. The air waves are still filled with lots of

things of interest to some, but it is not clear who much of it is tailored to. At times it all seems to be merely a cacophony of disorganized topics that seem only to be there to keep from having dead air.

Oh yes, the usual traditional Holiday movies and shows are to be found on nearly every TV channel and also on most broadcast radio stations. It is somewhat reassuring to see that the old standards are still being run. The music on broadcast radio is again featuring those old stand by favorites that tend to make the atmosphere more seasonal. Even the muzak that is running constantly in stores is now geared to the season. It is hoped, I assume, that doing this will inspire shoppers to buy more things for the Holidays that they can not live without.

Continued on page 2

UPCOMING Events for December

- ◆ **RARC Sunday Night 2 Meter Net** is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for August are:
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **December 2 ...** Program Night: UU Fellowship Hall 7:00pm. Elmer time 6:30 pm This is our Annual meeting. Please attend if you can.
- ◆ **December 16..**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| December 1, 2024 | Mark KB9OFK |
| December 8, 2024 | Jon KD9WPD |
| December 15, 2024 | Greg KA9FOZ |
| December 22, 2024 | Rick KD9GVS |
| December 29, 2024 | Wayne K0WLO |

Happy Holidays... (continued)

Everywhere that you look there is the message that a new “Must see show” is now available for the enjoyment of everyone. Hopefully those shows will pull us out of the doldrums that we have been languishing in for so long. A new day is coming and everything will be better and greater than before, or so it is hoped. Meanwhile, we are to wait breathlessly as these wonderful things come to pass. So my advice to all is to snuggle up to your favorite mass media device, with a hot cup of your favorite beverage and bask in the glow of it all. That should be heart warming, at least in the short term, as the snow begins to fall along with the ambient temperature.

It might be nice if you could find some time during your busy Holiday season of shopping and feasting to turn on your rig and express your self on the air

to a fellow Ham or two somewhere out there who would like to be warmed by your QSO. After all, we are Hams and that is what we do. You never know who will answer your CQ. Who ever it is will be glad to hear from you I’m sure. With all that is not so good that is happening in the world today, it might be nice for us to reach out to those who are less fortunate, if only to try to brighten up their day somewhat, in what ever way that we can. On the air or in person.

As a final thought it might be appropriate to remember the “Ham’s Prayer.” Unless you have forgotten it, it goes like this, “I’m a Ham, and I can transmit, if I have to, I guess!” Happy Holidays to all and a big 73 to everyone.

DE Carl KC9HDS



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello, RARC Members and Friends,

We are winding down on our activities in 2024. We have one month left without many events left: SKYWARN is all we have left for club activities this year. You're encouraged to participate in that, by the way. It'll be on Dec. 7 from roughly 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Weather Service office up on top of Grandad's Bluff. It's a fun activity centered in trying to contact other SKYWARN stations around the country. If you haven't been to SKYWARN before and might have some interest, give it a try. The operating is laid-back and enjoyable.

There are a couple of items on which to keep your eyes before that, though...

Tuesday, December 3 will be the club's Annual Meeting. Please make it a point to attend. The other coming event will be early in January. That's the club's Post-Holiday Party on January 7, 2025. The banquet room at Schmidty's has been reserved for the meal at 7 PM, and we'll have a cocktail/visit time before that. You'll soon receive your 2025 membership form and the announcement with an RSVP in the mail, but I wanted to get this announcement published to allow you to set the date aside.

I hope everybody reading this has a safe and enjoyable holiday season. The best wishes go for fellowship with family and friends and smooth, uneventful journeys for everybody.

I think of including fellowship in this column because friendship is what this club means to me, and I want to take this opportunity to pass that along to all of you.

I've mentioned before that the thing that really inspired me to seek the Presidency of this club and to serve it for the time that I have was my experience with the club on Zoom during the pandemic when meeting in person was not something that we did. The members of any other group I met with on Zoom were always in a big hurry to log off and get away from the meeting. Every time RARC met, though, there was a very different experience. We got through the agenda for the meeting, but nobody wanted to be the first to leave. The members of this club stayed on long after the meeting and just visited with each other. The discussion was sometimes radio-related, and sometimes it wasn't. It was a group who's members enjoyed visiting with each other. That is a very special thing and worth celebrating.

I've been a ham since 1977, and I can say without any doubt that being the member of the local club and participating in operating events with the club has been my favorite part of my radio activities. The years away from a local club were really unfulfilling from a radio perspective. As a teenager, I lived in Ozaukee County and the Ozaukee Radio Club was an important part of my preparation for my novice exam (the entry-level license at the time). Field Day with the Ozaukee Radio Club (no computers then, we logged on dupe sheets) was my only understanding of Field Day for many years. Participating with a radio club in an event like Field Day is a highlight of the year, and other events (QSO Parties and public event support activities like St. Patrick's Day parade) are great opportunities for fellowship, to contribute to the community, and honing operating skills.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club has a little different Field Day than the ORC of the late 1970s and early 80s. ORC had a big party the Friday night before (after setting up the antennas and operating stations). W9CQO (the ORC club call) in those days entered Field Day with four transmitters: two SSB and two CW. All four operated through the night with scheduled operators. It didn't always go as planned, but the plan was there. Members of that club enjoyed each other's company just as members of RARC do.

As a club, we offer membership to new hams for the remainder of the year they license and the year to follow. It's a good way to welcome people in. Every so often I hear about newly-licensed hams turning down the membership or deciding not to participate. I think of my own experience and how local clubs have really made the hobby for me and I think it's unfortunate that other new hams decline that opportunity. I'm sure I've unknowingly walked away from opportunity, but I'm glad I've renewed my membership with my local radio club.

Tnx es 73,

Drew Neve, AB9NE



Editor's note.

I had a SSD crash earlier this month. It has taken me time to reconstruct what was on it. As an IT professional I know better than to not have backups. Many things I had backed up, but some things I didn't, including stuff from the Key. I apparently lost most of the pictures I had, so filler pics would be greatly appreciated.

This is also the reason I am late getting this out. It is part of the reason it is a smaller newsletter this month. Additional articles would also be appreciated.

Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season.

Scott

KB3MKD

BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



Include "The Key" in the subject line.

Wanted: Articles for The Key

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

For Sale

Wen Inverter Generator \$300 obo

2000 Watt Gasoline powered generator. You have seen me use this at Field day and other ham radio activities. I have also used it camping. It is quiet, weighs 39 Pounds.

Sells for \$429 on Amazon. I am selling it because I bought an Eco-Flow battery powered system.

Scott

Wanted: Ham shack, antenna and other ham radio related pictures that can be used in the Key.

Send your Amateur related classified ad (s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net. Please

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 Tuesday of the month at Las Margaritas 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 2024 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.

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

Secretary.....Jon Melbo. KD9WPD Email melbo.jon@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Scott Cross, KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net

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

Trustee.....William Wood, KE9XQ Email ke9xq@aol.com

Repeater Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK Email...readers@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net