

THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club



The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. The club is active in community service as well as actively promoting Amateur Radio in the Coulee Region. The Club is open to all who are interested in Amateur Radio and will help unlicensed persons become licenses thru the FCC.

CHRISTMAS DINNER 2017

**Riverland
Amateur Radio
Club**
P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, WI.
54636

Repeater
146.970 PL 131.8

RARC Net
8:00 PM Sunday
night on the
146.970 Repeater

Club Meetings
Trustee Meeting
3rd Monday of the
month at King
Street Kitchen at
5:00 PM, all club
members are
welcome.

Program evening is
1st Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 PM,
Gunderson Clinic
conference room 1
in the lower level.



Good food, good refreshments and good friendship. That was the fun had by all who attended the RARC Christmas Dinner at Schmitt's Restaurant on Tuesday January 2, 2018. President Kevin supplied us with a very inspiring speech and then went on to the gift handout. It was obvious that everyone definitely enjoyed the evening.





We have all seen it, your down by 1 point with only 10 seconds to go. You have 30 yards to go before you can even attempt a field goal to win the game. Then it happens, the pass is thrown and by some miracle it is caught and the receiver runs in for the touchdown and the game is won. Imagine the intensity and pressure of the players to get it done. Believe it or not, there are some Amateur Radio Operators who put that kind of intensity and pressure on themselves to compete in the Winter Field Day Event. Scratching and clawing for that last contact at that last 10 seconds in the hopes of being number one and win the game. Not so with the RARC Winter Field Day Event, although the radios are humming and the contacts are being made, we spend a lot of our time with friends, good food and good conversation. Where we end up on the field when the final buzzer goes off may not be as important to us as the fun and knowledge we all had gained.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

President.....Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD
 Vice-President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS
 Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS
 Treasurer.....Greg Miller, K9LEC
 Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS
 Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK
 Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ
 Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC

The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. Address any correspondence to: Greg Miller at k9lec@arrl.net.

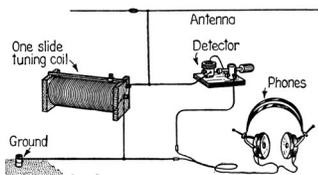
Visit our website at rarc.qth.com



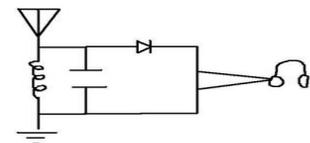
Testing for new Ham's or upgrades for 2017 will be on the following dates:

- February 10
- April 28
- June 1
- August 4 (RARC Swapfest)
- November 10

Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurtytel.net.



"Voice Of The Crystal"



Have you ever wondered how a Crystal Radio works? Or how to make one using items that are just laying around the house? If so the February Program Night is the place to be. Bill Wood, AE9XQ, will be giving us a review of the book "Voice Of The Crystal" authored by H. Peter Friedrichs. To many, crystal radio construction means purchasing electronic components. However, the very best tinkerers can build their own! In the book H. P. Friedrichs reveals how to construct all of the necessary components "from scratch". This very interesting presentation will be held on February 6 at the Gundersen Clinic Conference Room in the lower level at 7:00 PM.

WINTER FIELD DAY 2018

What do you do when the beans and barbeque hit the ground rendering themselves unfit for consumption? What else, PIZZA!! The Riverland ARC knows how to make the best of a Gremlin laden situation. I think Carl brought the gremlins with him this year as several issues popped up but we managed to overcome them all.

A big thank you goes out to all the work Carl, kc9hds put into this year's event even though he was feeling under the weather he got right in there and made this a fun activity for the club members. And thank you to all that attended and worked to make this a success.



February 4...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, kb9ofk

February 6, 2018...Program Night (Bill Wood on Crystal Radio)

February 11...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Carl, kc9hds

February 18...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, kd9gvs

February 20, 2018...Trustee Meeting at King Street Kitchen

February 25...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Kevin, kc9zgd

March 6...Program Night (Greg Miller on his adventure climbing Mt. Rainier)

One Last Bite...by Carl Thurston KC9HDS

Over the last few years I have reported several instances where the "Hapless Ham" had been pestered by "Gremlins." They usually do some mischief with radio equipment, but not always. Sometimes they attack his car, the wiring in his house, they have even messed with the garage door opener. The telling of these events, though humorous in the relating, have caused no end of grief. Our hero has tried to combat those purveyors of mischief. Some time successfully and some times not so much. He has managed to hold them at bay for several months, mostly by refraining from using his radio. But that is not an acceptable solution to a Gremlin crime wave. He thought that he left them behind when he and his XYL took a trip to Australia.

All went smoothly for most of the long trip down under, but it wasn't long and they showed up there too. When they did, their attack was of a more personal and physical nature. For several days, the Hapless Ham was debilitated health wise to the extent that he had to get around in a wheel chair. It is not certain that the Gremlins were the cause of his physical problems. The evidence to support that was extremely circumstantial, but lacking any other explanation, the blame fell to them.

The Hapless Ham is nothing if not resourceful. He quickly bounced back from his difficulties with mobility and the rest of the trip proceeded without further incidents. The Gremlins weren't done with him though. Upon arriving home to his QTH, our hero once again became afflicted by misfortune. They kept him off of the air at Field Day, as he was unable to get his radio set up and working, as it was brand new and he, as usual, didn't read the instruction manual so all of his efforts were in vain. Oh yes, I will admit that the evidence that Gremlins had a hand in that is very sketchy, but the results were the same as if they had interfered. The Hapless Ham contented himself with helping others with their equipment and with the grilling of the steaks for dinner. Field Day went well for the club. Everyone had a good time and we all looked forward to more adventures in HF at other club events.

After Field Day, things were fairly peaceful for the Hapless Ham. He wasn't able to get on HF because of problems with the antennas at his QTH. That had been a long standing situation that may again have been caused by those pesky Gremlins, or it could have been something our hero either did or didn't do properly.

As time wore on, things began to come together for the most part. He was once again able to get on the air periodically on some of the bands. Not everything worked on all of the bands, but it was an improvement over what he had been dealing with. In fact, he was content with the way that things were.

Over time, the Gremlins only seemed materialized when the Hapless Ham tried to check in to or host the Sunday Night Net. On one occasion, as he was opening the Net, his battery went dead forcing him to retreat to his lower level shack to continue with the net. One other time, as he tried to check into the net, his radio mysteriously went into simplex mode dropping the normal off set frequency.

He was scheduled to be the Net Control Station for the last Sunday Night Net of 2017. He carefully planned out a special announcement for that net. He had it all printed out in an extra large font for easy reading and rehearsed it several times. His battery was fully charged, his radio was set correctly, and his microphone and head phones were working properly. It looked like all would go smoothly, and it did, for a while, until as he was doing his presentation, his radio decided to skip off frequency for no good reason. It seems that the Gremlins had to get in one more bite to end the year 2017.



RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday Jan 15th, 2018 Executive Meeting

MINUTES

Call to order: 5:15 PM

Members Present: Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD, Greg Miller K9LEC, Roger Reader KA9BKK, Dan Abts AB9TS, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Bill Wood KE9XQ

Treasurer's Report: Monthly Financial Record available from Greg upon request.
Bill submitted the completed audit of the treasurer's annual report back to Greg.

Committee Reports:

Carl reports plans for Winter Field Day, Jan 27 & 28, proceeding along well. Shelter is reserved, some of the food and refreshment items purchased. Photos of the shelter revealed a superb looking facility.

Carl also reports 100 club business cards have been ordered.

Old Business:

Kevin presented a donation from the Club to the Durnford Family, for the recent passing of Jacque, KC9ZGB.

New Business:

Kevin started taking sign-ups for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade duty on March 17th. A few more volunteers will be needed.

Roger suggested each Executive Board member submit a written outline of a plan for the club to recruit new members. These will be reviewed and ideas combined at a future executive meeting.

Tentative list of Monthly program topics/presentations was put together:

February- Bill Wood "Crystal Radio is not just for Kids" and "The Voice of the Crystal"

March- Greg Miller "Trip to Mt. Ranier"

April- Carl Thurston "Trains"

May- Raspberry Pi and/or Arduino Weekend

June- open

July- open

August- Emergency Nite, Mobile set-ups, Go-Kits

Sept- Roger Reader "Fox Hunting"

Oct- Kevin Holcomb- "Digital vs. Analog Scanners"

Nov- open

Motion to Adjourn : 6:40 PM