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Speechless...

When writing an article for "The Key" I generally avoid personal items, but after the Post Holiday Party that was held recently, I feel that I should say something about it. These gatherings are always enjoyable and they are an instance where face to face QSOs are not only possible, but welcomed. This last one caught me totally by surprise. Oh yes, much of it was predictable, it being made up of the usual meet and greet fair. It was a chance to see some of the Hams that one normally only has contact with via the radio, and so, to put a face to some who were only a voice on the air waves, was nice. It is regrettable that a lot of the older Hams were not there as many of the newer Hams would have liked to meet many of them, I'm sure.

Drew Neve AB9NE, our out going President was the Master of Ceremonies. Drew has been our President for the past 2 years and has initiated a number of programs and projects that were new and exciting, especially for newer Hams. He was very successful with a number of things that brought a revitalization to our hobby and our club. Through his guidance several entry level classes were set up and run to encourage prospective Hams to get involved by getting their Technician Class Licenses. In addition to this, he was very eager in leading the way to more radio activities especially with POTA as well as several opportunities that he set up for working with radios in our public service efforts, such as marshaling the annual MS Walk, the Saint Patrick's Day Parade, and our latest venture of assisting with communications for the Stepping Out In Pink event.

(continued)

UPCOMING Events for February 2025

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

February 2, 2025	Rick KD9GVS
February 9, 2025	Jon KD9WPD
February 16, 2025	Mark KB9OFK
February 23, 2025	David KD9EPN
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **February 1...**Minnesota QSO Party.
- ◆ **February 4...**Monthly meeting at UU La Crosse, 401 West Ave
- ◆ **February 18...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

Speechless... (continued)

He also worked hard to expand our main events of Field Day and Winter Field Day. He is going to continue to be on our Executive Board where I am sure that he will assist the new incoming President Dave Peters AB9EWG as he takes over the reins this year. Among his final acts as President and Master of Ceremonies, Drew presented the awards for New Ham of the Year and POTA Queen, (Lisa McCarty KE9APN), Elmer of the Year (David Peters AB9EWG), Ham of the Year (Mike McCarty Jr. KE5RJJ) and to my surprise the Ernie Gershon Memorial Life Time Achievement Award was presented to me!

Those who know me will attest that I always have something to say about most anything, but this award caught me totally off guard, so when I received it I was completely speechless. All that I could do was thank everyone for this great honor.

Thanks Again! and 73 Carl KC9HDS



I heard a few people talking about the weird sounds on the 97 repeater 🤖

Just a reminder that the club's repeater on 146.97 is a Yaesu System Fusion repeater capable of analog and digital modes. In addition with the proper equipment you can access WiresX which connects rooms across the world via the internet.

The hash sound you hear periodically is someone using digital mode. You can prevent hearing this by using TSQL v Tone ENC. Any questions feel free to reach out.

**KØWLO, Wayne
Wayne Oliver
608.317.8315
KØWLO**



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

RARC Members and Friends:

Hello everyone and welcome to my first President's Corner, as we begin the year I want to thank my predecessor Drew AB9NE for his efforts in giving the club the great momentum that it has had during his terms as President. I would like to try to keep that momentum rolling as I begin my term as your Club President , and I believe we are off to a good start with Winter Field Day and other events to come.

During the recent board meeting I did mention I would like to continue the Hams in The Park which was one of Drew's ideas and I do intend on having more Ham Classes, with me being honored by being named Elmer of The

Year for 2024 I intend to live up to that honor be making education a goal for 2025.

I am hoping to make 2025 a successful year for the club and to see many of you at the upcoming meetings and events that are already in the works. I am writing this column on Friday the day before Winter Field and am looking forward to a great first event for the year. Thank You to the board and all the members of the club for a great start to 2025 it was nice seeing everyone at the Holiday Party and I can't wait to see everyone at Winter Field Day,

Your 2025 Club President David KB9EWG



How I solve the Challenge of Modern Password Management (Part 2)

How To Keep Track Of Multiple, Individually Unique Passwords And Have That Information Available When Needed

Okay, so now that the case is made that passwords should be good and that they are unique for each use case, you may be wondering how you can keep track of multiple unique and good passwords and be able to access that information when you need to use a password. How about going old school and using a notebook? If kept updated, that isn't a totally awful solution. But it's far from a stellar one either.

Granted it is far ahead of trying to remember everything in your head and the floundering that comes with it, but it has its problems. One problem is that it could be lost or destroyed by circumstances beyond one's control; fire, flooding, forgetfulness. Another problem is that anyone able to access the notebook would have access to all of your accounts. Of course this may not be a problem for trusted family or friends but it's still not ideal.

Another similar approach is to use a spreadsheet file with all the info. Such a file could have any number of ways to secure it, could be stored in cloud storage etc. The issue here is if one goes the simplest route of just making the spreadsheet and keeping it on a single home computer, phone or the like, it is still vulnerable to being lost, destroyed etc.; similar to the notebook. Keeping the spreadsheet file on a phone is not too bad really so long as that file is encrypted and safe from exploitation, and your data on the phone is regularly backed up. I know Android has that feature and I'm guessing IOS does too. This set-up checks boxes for: tracking multiple system/username/complicated password combinations, be-

ing arguably reasonably secured, and recoverable in case of flood, fire etc. Great, that's the ticket! Not so fast.

Working with spreadsheets on the small screen of a phone isn't exactly for everyone. I know it's not my cup of tea anyway, and I doubt it is for much of anyone else who isn't a teenager with superb eyesight and having a nearly cyborg relationship with their phone. Also, the phone or tablet's built in encryption is pretty solid in theory, but it doesn't stop spyware from surreptitiously sending copies of your private files to who knows where.

Therefore, the generally accepted use is a bit of software called a password manager. There are a fair number of them out there, but most of them I recommend against. I have one favorite and a short list of acceptable substitutes. Actually, my favorite ticks off so many check-boxes, that I'm hesitant to recommend anything else for fear that they might miss something that might be important to you. We'll get into my recommendation next.

My Recommendations(s) for Password Management Software

Alright, my top pick is a program called KeePassXC. It is secure, cross platform, open source and free! Additionally, it is feature packed, highly configurable and actively maintained. It runs on Windows, Mac and Linux desktops. The data files it uses can be used by other compatible software as well that run on Android and IOS. For Android, KeePassXC recommends KeePass2 Android or KeePassDX. And for IOS devices KeePassXC recommends either Strongbox or KeePassium.

How I solve the Challenge of Modern Password Management (Part 2)

I personally only have experience with the KeePass2 Android and find it very suitable and useful. I have used embedded hyperlinks in those applications mentioned just previously, but in case they are lost in the newsletter editing process, I will list them here too:

KeePassXC: <https://keepassxc.org/>

KeePass2Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=keepass2android.keepass2android>

KeePassDX: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kunzisoft.keepass.free>

Strongbox: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/strongbox-password-safe/id897283731>

KeePassium: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/keepassium-keepass-passwords/id1435127111>

How to Use The Software

So, how do I get into or use this stuff? You might ask. That's a great question. Rather than try to explain it by words and pictures, I think it will be easier for me to explain and you to grasp if I just present at a club meeting. So, that is exactly what I'm going to do. I'm scheduled to present this topic at the February general club meeting, which by my reconning should be February 4th.

I hope to see you there. 73!

Jon Melbo KD9WPD



W9UP Station Trustee

Riverland Amateur Radio Club's current trustee, Roger Reader (KA9BKK), has announced that he would like to resign the position by April 1, 2025 after serving the club with distinction for many years. This has created an imminent vacancy to be filled.

The Station Trustee also acts as Repeater Trustee and holds a non-elected seat on the board.

There has been some interest expressed by different people in serving in that role: enough to assemble a deliberate process of selection.

As a member of the board, and not interested in the position, I offered to chair a selection committee to make a recommendation to the board for final decision. I have recruited two long-time club members for the committee. Any club member who is interested in serving as Trustee is encouraged to apply.

There has been some confusion regarding the class of license for the Station Trustee. The license class of the Trustee is immaterial. The following paragraph is an excerpt from "Who's in Control of Your Field Day Station?", posted on the ARRL web portal to clear up such matters. It is very concise:

Q. The trustee of our club callsign is an Extra. Does this mean our station can operate on any frequency?

A. No. Many people mistakenly believe that a club callsign automatically carries the operating privileges of the callsign trustee. That is not true. A club callsign comes from a station license and carries no operating privileges. A station may only operate according to the privileges of the Control Operator at the control point for that station. Example, if a control operator is a General, that transmitter may only operate using General class privileges.

There is a great deal of club station trustee information on the ARRL portal including a description of the process

to replace the current trustee with the FCC. I encourage anybody who is interested to familiarize themselves with the materials the ARRL has posted.

The committee will meet in March to review the applications and make a recommendation to the board.

Written applications will be received until Feb. 28. I will accept hand-delivered and emailed applications (ab9ne@yahoo.com). If you choose to mail an application, it must be postmarked by Feb. 28. You can mail applications to:

Riverland Amateur Radio Club

Attn: Drew Neve

P.O. Box 621

Onalaska, WI 54650

A written application can consist of whatever the applicant would like, but you are encouraged to include the following:

- ☐ Why are you interested in being the Station Trustee?
- ☐ What experience do you bring?
- ☐ What distinguishes you as an applicant (why should we pick you)?
- ☐ Can you attend Board meetings?
- ☐ Currently at 5:30 on the third Tuesday of the month at Las Margaritas Restaurant on State Road in La Crosse.
- ☐ Anything else you feel may be of interest.

Tnx es 73

Drew Neve

AB9NE





RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST

JUNE 21, 2025

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM



- Door Prizes
- Flea Market
- Buy—Sell—Trade
- Food Vendor
- Handicap Accessible
- Talk in 146.97



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

Nuggets

Save the date

Sunday, March 9, 2025: Wisconsin QSO party

Saturday, June 21, 2025: Swapfest

Pictures throughout are from Winter Field Day 2025



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 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 2025 Board of Trustees and contact information.

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

Vice-President.....Amos Magnuson, KE9AHQ Email... ke9ahq@gmail.com

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

Treasurer.....Michael McCarty KB9HV

Trustee.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

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

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

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