

# T H E K E Y



## Repeaters

146.970 PL 131.8

444.475 PL 131.8

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## RARC Net

The club's weekly net is 8 p.m. Sundays on the 146.970 repeater.

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## Programs

**Tues., Jan. 4,** 7 p.m., RARC Holiday Party, Schmidty's Restaurant. Social hour, 6 p.m. RSVP to Mike Mohler, [w9mbm@arrl.org](mailto:w9mbm@arrl.org)

**Tues., Feb. 1,** 7 p.m., "CW transmitter from a CFL," by Bill Wood, KE9XQ.

**Tues., Mar. 2,** 7 p.m., "soft ware defined radio," by Claire Jarvis, KØNY.

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## Club meetings

**Club meetings** are 7 p.m., Tuesday, at Gundersen/Lutheran in La Crosse. They will be in meeting room 1 on the lower level of the clinic.

"**Meeting of Elmers,**" advice, discussion and help is at 6 p.m. in the conference room in the Gundersen Clinic.

Visit the RARC Web page at <http://rarc.qth.com/> to find information about the club and links to other ham related sites.

## Operating tip

There is a 100 percent chance they will never call me if I don't keep calling CQ.

## Program to light-up radio

Some of the QRM you hear comes from the light in your shack as Bill Wood, KE9XQ, will demonstrate at the club's February meeting. Wood plans to show how you can build an HF transmitter or a receiver from a compact fluorescent light (CFL).

Wood asks those planning to attend the program to bring old, burned out, energy saving mercury type fluorescent lamps with them.

The February program will be 7 p.m., Tues. Feb. 1, at Gundersen/Lutheran in La Crosse.

Wood says a CFL's base contains most of the parts needed to build an HF transmitter or a receiver. "I hope to have a few extra parts flowing around if others take the



challenge to build these," he says. "They will be about 1.5W, give or take, output for the transmitter, and you'll have a hard time burning up these finals. Built like a tank!"

Wood says you may want to bring test equipment, like a multi meter, O'Scope, Dip Meter, et cetera. [http://www.aartj.com/das\\_dereicht.html](http://www.aartj.com/das_dereicht.html)

## Winter Field Day real test of radio

Field Day is easy Amateur Radio; Winter Field Day is the real test of whether or not a Ham can go out and do radio and do it in the cold. It is much easier staying home and watching TV. But then, that wouldn't be Ham radio!

Since emergencies and natural disasters don't always happen in the summer, Winter Field Day is a Ham's chance to make waves in the midst of frigid winds, icy limbs and bitter cold.

The Society for the Preservation of Radio (SPAR) established a Winter Field Day in 2007 and now holds the event the last full weekend each January.

The 2011 Winter Field Day will be held from 1700 UCT (11 a.m. CDT) Saturday Jan. 29, through 1700 UCT (11 a.m. CDT) Sunday Jan. 30. The object of the event is familiar to most Amateur Radio operators:

set up emergency style communications and make as many contacts as possible during the 24 hour period. The rules encourage as many contacts on as many bands and modes as possible, because during a real emergency, the most important factor is the ability to communicate, regardless of band, mode or distance.

Last year the Riverland Amateur Radio Club participated in Winter Field Day from the National Weather Service office in La Crosse.

The set up included the club trailer as the shelter; a Yaesu FT 897D transceiver; the club's Hustler vertical; very little extra miscellaneous equipment.

Those interested in giving Winter Field Day a try may find the rules at the SPAR Web site, [www.spar-hams.org/](http://www.spar-hams.org/)

## 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 4, marked paid.

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

Contributions are welcomed. You may contribute to general operations (repeater, etc.) or dedicate a contribution to a special project. See Article V, Section 3 of the standing rules on the Web page for details regarding dedicated contributions.

## VE testing for licensing

The RARC will continue providing VE testing for licensing. The fee remains 15.

Tests will be administered Saturdays, on Feb. 12, May 7, Sept. 10, and Nov. 12.

Each session will begin at 9 a.m. at the American Red Cross office, 2927 Losey Blvd. S., La Crosse.

## New club leadership

New club officers for 2011, elected at the December meeting, are Mark Cassellius, KB9OFK, president, Roger Reader, KA9BKK, vice president, Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, treasurer and Carl Thurston, KC9HDS, secretary.

Committee chairs will be named after the member survey and membership forms reporting current interests of the members are received.

## ARES/RACES

### ARES/RACES meeting Jan. 24

The La Crosse County ARES/RACES January meeting will be 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24. The meeting will be in room B190 of the La Crosse County Administration Center.

It is open to the public.



## Skywarn Recognition Day snowed out

The 12th Annual Skywarn Recognition Day Special Event was, once again, cancelled due to winter weather. NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Todd Shea, KB9YXS, called off the event for La Crosse because of anticipated nasty weather. Travel to the La Crosse NWS office can be risky in slippery weather.

Winter weather also caused cancellation of Skywarn Recognition Day in La Crosse in 2007.

## Calendar

**Tues, Jan. 4,** 7 p.m., RARC Holiday Party, Schmidy's Restaurant. Social hour, 6 p.m. RSVP to Mike Mohler, [w9mbm@arrl.org](mailto:w9mbm@arrl.org)

**Sat. Jan. 8,** 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., West Allis Radio Amateur Club Swapmeet, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, 1000 Northview Rd., Waukesha.

**Fri. Jan. 15,** St. Paul Radio Club Auction 7 p.m., University of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

**Jan. 22-24,** January VHF Sweepstakes, 1900 UTC Saturday to 0359 UTC Monday

**Tues., Feb. 1,** 7 p.m., "CW transmitter from a CFL."

**Sat. Feb. 12,** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Capital City Hamfest, Memorial United Church of Christ, 5705 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg.

**Sat. Feb. 19,** St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club Cabin Fever Reliever Mid Winter Hamfest, St. Cloud Armory, 1710 8th St N., St. Cloud, MN 56303

**Tues., Mar. 1,** 7 p.m., "software defined radio."

**Wed. March 2,** 7 p.m., South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Auction, American Legion Post #434, 9327 S. Shepherd Ave., Oak Creek.

**Sat. March 12,** Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club equipment auction, Grace Lutheran Church, 202 W. Grand Ave., Eau Claire.

**Sun. March 13,** Wisconsin QSO Party.



## Riverland Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, Wis. 54650



President ..... Mark Cassellius, KB9OFK

Vice president..... Roger Reader, KA9BKK

Treasurer..... Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ

Secretary..... Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Newsletter editor.. Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE

Address correspondence regarding the club to Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, [w9bjq@charter.net](mailto:w9bjq@charter.net)

This newsletter is sent by e mail to current and past RARC members and others. If you wish to change your address or subscription, e mail [KC9IWE@arrl.net](mailto:KC9IWE@arrl.net)

# Carl's projects gang up on him

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Some people have garden gnomes; I have a gremlin or an ogre in my house continuing my string of misfortunes.

Enter the dishwasher from Hell. We purchased it seven years ago and it functioned more or less as it was supposed to for the first five years. I only had to replace the baskets; the basket rail stops, the control head, and the door latch twice. Other than that, it seemed to work okay. Then one day about two years ago, it just plain stopped dead. By that time we were fairly fed up with it so it just sat for another year and a half.

Then, one fine day, it was determined that it would be nice to have the dishwasher working on the landslide of dirty dishes piling up during the holidays.

Since I can no longer work on appliances because of back problems, I hired a friend of a friend to repair the dishwasher. He discovered that the motor that drives the pump unit had a broken shaft.

A new motor was near 300 plus tax locally, so I searched the net and found one for less than 150 delivered.

It took the repairman nearly four hours to install this motor. When finished, there seemed to be something not quite right with it. It made noises unlike anything that we had ever heard before. At times it sounded like a Huey helicopter approaching an LZ. It lasted about a month before it died once again.

Feeling that I needed professional

help with this I called a friend who has been an appliance serviceman for 30 years. He came over, pulled the motor out, checked it and declared that the shaft was broken. So I bought the more expensive local motor, which he installed in about 30 minutes. All seemed to be well, for a while; then the soap door refused to open, the wax motor was shot. That I could fix myself, so I did. The dishwasher worked, sort of, but again, it didn't sound right.

Then it was discovered that water had leaked under the kitchen sink. It seemed time to call a plumber. He quickly fixed the leak under the sink, the dripping faucets, the basin stopper and while working on the laundry sink in the basement he noticed that water was still leaking from under the sink in the kitchen right over his head. When he checked it out, he found that water was running out of the motor on the dishwasher! That did it! That dishwasher was going to go. I refused to put any more money into it, so I went shopping for a replacement. We found a suitable new and improved model and arranged to have it installed. Thinking that this would end the chain of mishaps, we were all set to put the old dishwasher behind us and move on to the new shinny turbocharged model that we bought.

The gremlin wasn't done with us yet.

The dealer sent Larry, Darrel, and Darrel to deliver and install it. This should have been a very straightforward

operation but that was not to be. When they removed the old dishwasher, they decided to replace the perfectly good high pressure water line with a new one; they broke the shut off valve and the stub pipe. They replaced those, no problem. They added a new drain line that was inferior to the old one and failed to level and straighten the unit.

All of this was bad enough but when they first arrived they managed to snag my G5RV with their truck.

I didn't think too much of it figuring they broke the wire and I'd just have to solder it back together again. No big deal.

It was a big deal, the 30 foot mast made from water pipe was broken in the middle and the whole thing was hanging precariously over the house. Not only that but he also hit the basketball hoop behind it and bent that too.

In the meantime, the G5RV had to come down. So I called a couple of Hams and asked for their help. Three Hams, along with my next door neighbors managed to get it down.

The next thing that happened was the UHF/VHF antenna on top of the mast fell apart.

And who knows when it will end?

*Carl Thurston lives in a small house with a very large supply of projects, all of which threaten him.*



RSVPs sought

## Holiday party Tuesday, Jan. 4

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club's annual holiday party is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, at Schmidy's Restaurant, 3119 State Rd., La Crosse. Social hour begins at 6 p.m.

You may order from a special menu that includes Schmidy's famous fish or beef tips.

Let Mike Mohler, W9MBM, know if you're coming by e mailing him at [w9mbm@arrl.net](mailto:w9mbm@arrl.net) or phoning him at 608 632 2623.

**Riverland Amateur Radio Club  
Membership, 2011**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am unable to help with club activities.

\_\_\_\_ I will help organize or work at least two activities:

Select two or more activities with which you will assist

- |                                   |                           |  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| ____ Program committee            | ____ Swap meet            | ____ Rotary lights committee                     |
| ____ Field day committee          | ____ Trailer improvement  | ____ Sunday night net control operator           |
| ____ SKYWARN recognition day      | ____ SKYWARN operations   | ____ Awards committee                            |
| ____ Web page maintenance         | ____ Repeater committee   | ____ Run or walk events                          |
| ____ Run or walk events committee | ____ Ares committee       | ____ Picnic committee                            |
| ____ Holiday party committee      | ____ Newsletter committee | ____ Provide Newline and ARRL Audio News         |
| ____ Membership committee         | ____ Other _____          |  |
| ____ Other _____                  | ____ Other _____          | ____ I am willing to serve as an elected officer |

**DUES**

Member dues \$20

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

Names and call signs (if any) of family members \_\_\_\_\_

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Contributions to RARC are tax deductible in accordance with 501(c)(3) rules. Receipts will be provided. Contributions will help fund general operations or special projects

Contribution to general operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated contribution for special project (see Standing Rules, Article V, Section 3 on web page)

Dedicated purpose \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**RARC  
Box 621  
Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650**

**QUESTIONS:**

Most members enjoy the programs that are presented at club meetings. What program topics would interest you, what would you enjoy presenting, or who you nominate?

Would you be interested in attending a class to help you obtain a General Class license?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: