

# THE KEY



The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League

## Repeater

146.970 PL 131.8

## RARC Net

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

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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.

January's meeting is the Holiday Party, Jan. 7 at Schmidy's Restaurant.



Eyeball QSOs were made by (L-R) Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, Tom Peterson, KC9ECI, Keith Butler, KC9IWL, and Gary Webb, NI9V.

## Skywarn Recognition Day

# Cold contacts

By Todd Shea, KB9YXS

Despite bitterly cold wind and a deer hunt in adjoining Hixon Forest, Skywarn Recognition Day, Sat. Dec. 7, was a success at the La Crosse National Weather Service Office NWS.

Thirty two amateur radio operators and members of the NWS participated in the 15th Annual Skywarn Recognition Day. Skywarn Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer Skywarn radio operators make to the NWS.

The La Crosse National Weather Service station made 359 contacts, including 27 other NWS offices, and contacts in Russia, France, Japan, Belgium, and Canada.

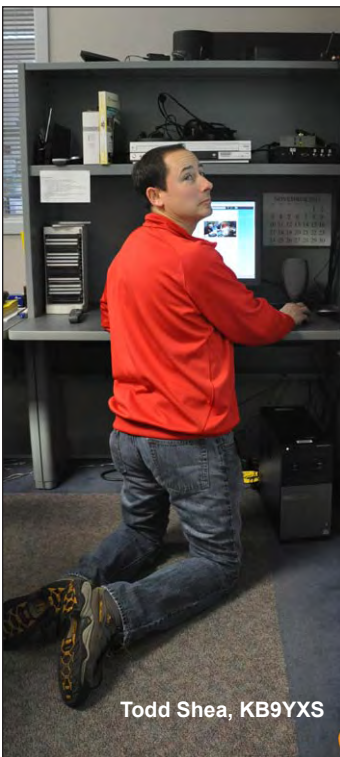
The cold weather limited the number of antennas that were set up, a dipole, a Bud dipole and an OPEK.

The temperatures started out that morning at -6 deg F but warmed to +7 deg F by afternoon with sunny skies.

In summary, operators worked nine hours; 359 contacts were made; 43 U.S. States were contacted; 27 other NWS offices were contacted; and we managed QSOs with five foreign countries, Russia, France, Japan, Belgium and Canada.

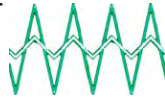
Most of the operating was done on 2, 20, and 40 meters.

Special thanks goes out to the Mississippi River Amateur Radio Association and Riverland Amateur Radio club for helping host the day's event.



Todd Shea, KB9YXS

## President's Frequency



### Modulation

By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ



Once again another year has come to a close. Looking back on the year our club has had it definitely has been a busy one. As you look at the list of 2013 accomplishments you will see the activities that we do annually as well as some new ones that we tried. Not all new ideas will succeed but why not try it and see what happens such as the Worked All Club Members WACM activity? The goal of this activity was to try and create more radio contacts between club members and hope fully start a new net on HF. Although some tried I don't think the general rag chew took place. You never know if it will work unless you try. I do want to say Larry Worthington, KC9HDP, and Dave Peters, KB9EWG, did a great job of working the bugs out of the rules and setting it up.

We started a code practice session on the 97 repeater for anyone interested in learning Morse Code. Bill Wood, KE9XQ, is spearheading that activity and is continuing it into 2014.

One thing I would like to see is more interesting programs at our meetings. It wouldn't have to be every meeting, and it shouldn't be, but maybe at every other meeting. It is hard to come up with programs that would be of interest to all members and be short enough to be held in the allotted time. Any ideas would be appreciated.

One thing we are going to try for 2014 is discussion items related to ham radio at each meeting. Here is how it will work: from a list of several ham related ideas each club member that was present at the December meeting was asked to pick 10. I have reviewed each member's 10 and have put together the 10 most requested. I will assign one subject to each month starting at the February meeting. We all will know what will be the subject to be discussed at that meeting. The members will be asked to contribute something to that subject. That could be a simple comment on the subject or a planned program on it. The monthly subject could also be discussed on the Sunday night net the Sunday before the meeting.

We are also looking at a more limited business meeting each month to give more time to the social part of the meetings. This will be a topic of discussion at the February meeting.

Come to the meeting and let's see if our 2014 list of accomplishments will grow.

## RARC 2013 accomplishments

Riverland Amateur Radio Club members were active as a group for the past year contributing to the community's safety through Skywarn, lending a hand for community activities providing communications support, operating in Field Day and having fun. Here's a list that may not be complete:

- Holiday dinner
- Code practice sessions
- Winter Field Day
- Regular Sunday night net
- WACM Worked All Club Members
- MS Walk communications support
- Chileda communications support
- Minds in Motion communications support
- ARRL Field Day
- Skywarn storm spotting
- Skywarn Recognition Day
- Interesting club meeting programs
- Rotary Lights support
- Rotary Lights Christmas Parade
- Swap meet
- Test sessions
- National Wildlife Refuge Week special event station

The first weekend of the year is a busy one on the digital modes. The ARRL RTTY Roundup and the 070 PSK Fest provide lots of opportunities for key boarding fun. There are many key pounding opportunities as well.

### Riverland Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, Wis. 54650



President ..... Greg Miller, KA9FOZ  
 Vice president.... Van Elston, WA9FIO  
 Treasurer..... Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ  
 Secretary..... Carl Thurston, KC9HDS  
 Newsletter editor.. Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE  
 Address correspondence regarding the club to Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, [wb9bjq@charter.net](mailto:wb9bjq@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)

## Christmas Party

Mark your calendars for the Riverland Amateur Radio Club's Christmas Party Tuesday, Jan. 7. It will be at Schmidy's with social hour at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Fish and beef tips served family style for \$12.99.

## Small, light power supply

If you're looking for a very small, very light, well made power supply, check out the HPS 1a by Gamma Research. It is a 1.25 lbs power supply that is useful for hams who travel with their transceivers. It is capable of operating most 12 Volt, 100 Watt transceivers in normal voice SSB or Morse CW modes. It is especially useful when used with smaller transceivers.

The HPS 1a is guaranteed to operate your 12 volt radio at up to 100 Watts output using CW or SSB. You have to see it to believe it.



### Specs:

Input Voltage: 100-250 VAC, 50-60 Hz  
Output Voltage: 13.8 VDC +/- 5%  
Output Current: 5 Amps Continuous., 22 Amps @ 25% duty/sec.  
Dimensions: 3.37" x 1.55" x 5.25"  
Weight: 1.25 lbs.

It's built on the theory that your radio uses power only 35 percent of the time when transmitting CW, and about 25 percent during normal SSB operation. It provides full power capability by the use of Ultra Capacitors which act like short term batteries. Between spoken syllables and between Morse code characters, the Ultra Capacitors are being recharged, ready for the next high current pulse requirement. This allows the total weight

and size of the power supply to be reduced to one third that of any other power supply on the market.

The HPS 1a is over voltage protected, and current limited. Also virtually RF noise free.

## Calendar

### Sat. Jan. 4

→ WARAC's 42nd Annual Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha, Wis [www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org)

### Tue Jan. 7

→ Riverland Amateur Radio Club Holiday Party, 7 p.m..

### Sat Jan 19

→ 47th Annual Mid Winter Hamfest, St. Charles, Ill. <http://wheatonhamfest.org>

### Tue Feb 4

→ Riverland Amateur Radio Club, 7 p.m., Gundersen Lutheran, La Crosse. Elmer session at 6 p.m. Nominations for club officers.

### Sat Feb 15

→ MRAC/MAARS Swapfest, Brookfield, Wis. [www.wgrh.org](http://www.wgrh.org)  
→ Cabin Fever Reliever Hamfest, Saint Cloud, Minn. [www.wosv.org](http://www.wosv.org)



## VE testing

The RARC will provide VE testing for licensing. Tests will be administered Saturdays, on Feb. 8, May 3, Sept. 6 and Nov. 15.

Those wishing to test must contact Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783-0723 or [readers@centurytel.net](mailto:readers@centurytel.net), to register five days in advance. No walk-ins. Each session will begin at 9 a.m. at the American Red Cross office, 2927 Losey Blvd. S., La Crosse. The required ARRL fee remains \$15.

## Net Note

The RARC's Sunday Night Net has a new sound: mics keying!

Net Control Stations will encourage check ins to weigh in on subjects of interest to Amateur Radio Operators.

The Sunday Night Net is at 8 p.m. on the 146.97 PL 131.8 repeater. All licensed Amateurs are welcome.

## It was cold out, warm in

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

I know what you are thinking, "it's always cold for the SkyWarn Appreciation Day event!" Since this event is set for the first weekend in December after the end of the hurricane season, we of the north country must suck it up and deal with the extremes of weather that is the usual fare for this time of year. It would be nice though if we could have this event during a more moderate time of year. Well, at least the Gremlins seem to have been frozen out this year; as the hardy souls who braved the myriad difficulties that stood in the way of their attendance at the National Weather Service Office a top of Granddad's Bluff, were rewarded with lots of goodies, fellowship, and, oh yes, there were a scad of QSOs. Hams from as far away as Galesville, Viroqua, and Rochester came together to share the good times at this event.

The set up this year was some what abbreviated as due to the extreme cold and wind, only one dipole was set up, the one that is always there at the NWS. Beyond that, Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE set up a Buddipole Antenna attached to his Elecraft QRP rig, and I set up my FT 897 connected to an Opek vertical, Poor man's Outbacker on the roof of my car. Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, brought his Kenwood HF rig. The club's Kenwood and power supply was also there, but with no antenna to hook it to, it stayed in my car.

For those of you who have not participated in this annual event, since it is an open invitational held by the National Weather Service, it is not restricted to a single club or group's participation. This makes it one of the special events that takes place occasionally that transcends the normal lines of partisanship. Typically, it is a wide open event that everyone is welcome to attend. The facilities are the best, the treats and beverages are



Bill Wood, KE9XQ, left, coaches your correspondent, KC9HDS, during Skywarn Recognition Dec. 7.

very good and the opportunity to meet with and work with Hams from various organizations, makes this a rather unusual event. There aren't many times when such cooperation is in evidence. All passed differences take a back seat as we all get together and enjoy being Hams with other Hams. There are a lot of people who come to this event to rag chew face to face, and that is fine too, but the main reason is to make contact with as many other weather stations as possible in the time allowed. Beyond that, all QSOs, no matter with who are logged and every effort is made to contact some one in every state. We didn't quite accomplish that this year, or any year in my memory, but we seem to get a little closer to that goal every year. There is also a few DX QSOs, and they are welcome too.

All of that aside, the main thrust of this event is for the personnel of the National Weather Ser

vice to express their gratitude for the on going assistance that they receive from the Amateur Radio Community every year during the storm season, when storm spotters are needed to keep the Meteorologists at the National Weather Service Offices all over the country informed in real time as to weather conditions. The work by those Amateur operators are unpaid but not unappreciated, for this reason, every year, this event is held to say "Thank you Hams for your help!"



The RARC's Rotary Lights participation includes decorating a Christmas Tree.

Image by Art Osborn, W0JDC

*This is a 'fillable' form. Print it and return to the club.*



## Riverland Amateur Radio Club Membership

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Member dues \$20

or

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

Names and call signs (if any) of family members

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

**Contributions** for special projects or general operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated purpose \_\_\_\_\_

(Contributions may be applied to tax deductions)

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

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

**RARC**

**Box 621**

**Onalaska,**

**Wisconsin 54650**

My interests include:

Public Service  DX  Construction  Boat Anchors  QRP  Ragchew

Suggest program topics that would interest you, that you could present, or persons who possibly could make presentations.

*Dues are payable by Jan. 31*