

RIVERLAND AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- This month begins the new look of "The Key"
- The club votes to purchase the Yaesu System Fusion Repeater.
- Skywarn Recognition
- Rotary Lights
- Good advice from Bill

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ISSUE I FOR 2020

THE KEY

JANUARY 2020

ROTARY LIGHTS

Each year more than 3000 volunteers help out with the Rotary Lights. This year being their 25th year they are illuminating more than 3,000,000 lights, allowing more than 160,000 visitors to enjoy one of the great traditions of the LaCrosse area.

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is one of these groups that volunteer to help keep the lights up and glowing.



Santa doesn't have enough coal for this crew.

It all starts with the Christmas Parade which the RARC participates in, pulling the clubs trailer on the parade route for all to see.



The morning after the club members meet at the Riverside Park to do whatever the Rotary Lights Committee would like us to do. It may be untangling strings of lights to cleaning toilets to emptying garbage cans. After all it



takes even the dirty jobs to keep it all working.



Part of the volunteering is setting up our own Christmas Tree with our own decorations that lean towards RARC identity, Such as the Yagi antenna at the top and handi-talkies as ornaments.

SKYWARN RECOGNITION

December began with the annual invite to the National Weather Station for their Skywarn Recognition event. Todd Shea sent out an e-mail to all who attended thanking them for their participation. He reports that this was the largest attendance in the history of the event which began in 1999, 53 people signed in.

He thanked the clubs that participated, Mississippi Valley Ama-

teur Radio Association, the Riverland Amateur Radio Club, the Rochester Amateur Radio Club, Southeast Minnesota Amateur Radio Club, and Pine Valley Amateur Radio Club (WI).

In 2020 the Skywarn Recognition is planned for December 5.



States Contacted 41

Provinces contacted 4

PRESIDENTS UPPER SIDE BAND

...By Dan Abts, AB9S



**One of the clubs
many activities for
2019, Swapfest**

**"Special thanks
to all the board
members. You
are very helpful
and graciously
donate your
time and talents
to make this
club work".**

We started off the year with a Holiday Party in January at Schmidty's, thanks to Kevin KC9ZGD for a great time and nice presents. I've recently learned how much time goes into that!

Winter Field Day was a success, thanks to Carl KC9HDS for getting the shelter, food and beverages and to those who helped set up antennas and operated.

Carl KC9HDS created an updated archive CD and was in charge of Winter Field Day, the club picnic and the swapfest.

Bill KE9XQ organized license classes with help of KB3MKD Scott and all the VE's and Roger KA9BKK. Also, thanks to Bill for all the soldering sessions he held.

Rick KD9GVS chaired the St. Patrick's Day parade and MS Walk and served as net control. This year we plan to make use of APRS for the MS Walk.

For the first time, RARC showed off the club trailer and had a booth at the Onalaska Community Days. We look forward to doing that again this year.

The club and a number of individuals purchased safety vests for use at public events.

Greg K9LEC had new patches made for club members to purchase.

Drew AB9NE had custom badges made for club members to purchase.

Greg K9LEC and a few others made a number of improvements to the club trailer. This includes installing solar panels to charge a big battery, mounting the radios in the trailer and an antenna.

Our ARRL Special Services Club designation was renewed as well as our 501.3C non-profit status.

A number of us helped out with Kevin's church picnic at Copeland park.

Our swap fest in August was a success at the new American Legion site. Thanks again Carl KC9HDS!

The new WI Parks on the Air event at Perrot State Park was a well-attended and enjoyable fall event.

The Rotary Lights parade and working in the park went well. Thanks Shawn KD9KGQ for chairing this event, decorating the tree and taking it down January 1. Thanks Rick KD9GVS for pulling the trailer and helping Shawn decorate it and to those who carried the banner and walked in the parade. We won an award this year!

Thanks Drew AB9NE for finding us a great new program meeting site!

Thanks to Kevin KC9ZGD for becoming the La Crosse county ARES/RACES EC and Kelly KD9LQW the Monroe county EC for breathing life back into ARES/RACES.

Thanks to Greg K9LEC for producing a monthly newsletter and managing the Sunday Night Net. Thanks to Art WOJDC for playing Newsline or ARRL Audio News every week.

Special thanks to all the board members. You are very helpful and graciously donate your time and talents to make this club work. Rick KD9GVS does a lot including the minutes every month and Drew AB9NE with the treasure duties and report each month.

We look forward to many of the same events for 2020 plus a balloon launch, a hidden transmitter or fox hunt and some other new events. I encourage all of you to get involved in these activities where you can. I think you will find it fun and you might learn some things! Many hands make light the work!

In Conclusion...by Carl Thurston, KC9HBS

As 2019 drew to a close, there were a number of important things that transpired before its end. At the last RARC Membership meeting, on December 3, 2019, at our new meeting place the community rooms of the Unitarian Universalist Community. Nominations for Officers in the RARC were closed and the current Executive Board re-elected by acclamation. After which, our President Dan Abts AB9TS, went straight to further business at hand by reading off the pros and cons of getting and using a Yaesu DR-2 Digital/Analog repeater that Yaesu was offering at considerable savings to clubs like ours. The reaction was such that a motion was made to purchase a new Yaesu DR-2 repeater and after a lengthy and thoughtful discussion about the prospect of it's purchase, a vote was taken, and with 20 RARC members present, the resulting tally was 18 for and 2 against. The purchase of the new repeater was therefore, enthusiastically, approved and with no further business on the docket, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made. Many of the members present were feeling so up lifted by this decision that an impromptu

party took place in the eating area of the UUC community rooms. Featuring cookies, banana bread, coffee and soda. Thus ended the last RARC Membership meeting of 2019.



On December 7th 2019, the annual SkyWarn Appreciation day was held at the National Weather Service on top of Grand Dad's Bluff. It was hosted by Todd Shae Warning and Coordination Meteorologist at the NWS, along with several of his colleagues. There were 53 Amateur Radio Operators in attendance, from several different clubs from as far away as Sparta WI, Winona MN, and Rochester MN, so as the day wore on the QSOs piled up, until 41 states were contacted as well as 4 provinces of Canada.

As usual, the refreshments were very good, with lots of pulled pork sandwiches,

chips, cookies, bars, coffee, and sodas. The fellowship that took place was also refreshing, as there were many Hams there that one seldom sees except at an event like this. It was so good to see the way that everyone got along so well. A

Club votes to purchase Yaesu System Fusion lot of new ideas were shared and the resulting atmosphere was very congenial. So 2019, a very successful year was brought to a close in a most convivial way after so many new things were accomplished by the Executive Board and members of the RARC. It is hoped that there will be more such get togethers that will take place in the coming new year.

The annual RARC Christmas Party that will be held at Schmidty's Restaurant on January 7th 2020, social hour at 1700 and dinner to follow at 1800, with lots of door prizes for everyone and several Awards to be presented. It should be a good start to the new year for the RARC. Our next event is Winter Field Day on January 25, 2020 at the Ball Park Shelter on Monica Lane in Onalaska, starting at 0800 and going til 1600. See you there!73

"So 2019, a very successful year was brought to a close in a most convivial way"

BILL'S CORNER

Miss-Steaks

How many mistakes can we make and still be alive. Of course there are a lot of folks that are not around any more to tell us their tales of adventure. Have a couple here to help you avoid these and possible others, so learn from a dummy that was lucky at least so far.

1. About the age of 10 I replaced a broken light bulb in our second floor apartment in a hallway above the steps. Took out a step ladder to reach the bulb about 10 feet overhead. made sure the switch was off (or so I thought) and proceeded to grab the glass part of the base of the lamp. I did not think a hallway had two switches one at the top of the steps and one at the bottom. I took a jolt that threw me off the ladder onto the floor.

Lucky it only went through my hand and not the body. One lesson learned.

2. Rebuilding an old 'chapel' type tube radio, I mistakenly ordered the wrong chassis mounted filter capacitor. After the job was finished (so I thought) plugged her in and it seemed like an M60 went off inside that cabinet. Ground was backward and shrapnel and paper pieces everywhere. Another lesson learned.



Bill says "Make sure the power is off"

3. Had an old tube type color TV that went south on us and decided to part it out. This is kind of my thing, not much like this gets thrown out. TV was unplugged for a couple days and taking up room in our living room, so needed to get it out of our way. Did not think to short out the caps in the power supply as it had been unplugged for several days now. Digging into the gold mine of parts, I shorted out the caps and they just about blew me across the room. I felt one that really gave me a jolt. A third lesson learned.

Just a few short notes, I'm sure many of you can tell the same or similar stories, and I'm glad you are still around. I do not want to receive that Darwin Award. :)

73 Folks

Bill KE9XQ

EDITOR'S LOWER SIDE BAND

...By Greg Miller K9LEC

OK, what can I say!!

I know last month I said I was sending my last newsletter, stepping aside to allow other members to step forward and put there wit and wisdom into improving on what I was thinking was a newsletter that was getting stale due to me editing it to long.

I was approached by many asking that I continue. I am sure that was only because no one wanted to do

it, or some wanted to do it but are a little hesitant to jump in and take the bull by the horns.

So here we go for another year or until the club gets tired of me and decides to fire me. What the heck, it wouldn't be the first time I got fired.

Believe it or not, I was editor of the Immanuel Lutheran Gazette way back in 1965. I was in 8th grade and I still have a copy of the newsletter.

And I never even took typing in school.



RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019 Annual Meeting

MINUTES

Call to order: 7:01 PM, 0101 UTC

Members Present: 18 paid members, 6 guests

Approval of Minutes: November 19th, 2019 Executive Board minutes approved

Treasurer's Report: Available upon request from Drew, AB9NE

Officer's Report: President Dan AB9TS gave his address to the Club consisting of a review of 2019 program topics and events throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped out in 2019.

Old Business:

ARES/RACES – Kelley KD9LQW reminded everyone of the Monroe County ARES/RACES net Mondays at 8:00 PM on the 146.805 Kendall repeater.

Rotary Lights – Shawn KD9KGQ thanked everyone for participating and giving back to the community.

Skywarn Appreciation Day NWS Dec. 7th 8-4:00 – Bill KE9XQ and Roger KA9BKK will set up the “mystery” antenna for the Club’s use.

Balloon Launch – Bill ordered transmitter, but now waiting for a new updated design that is in the works, so launch date TBD.

VE test schedule – New dates set for 2020 – Feb 1, May 2, Aug 8, Sept 5, Nov 7.

January holiday party – 1-7-20 at Schmidty’s 5:00 social, 6:00 dinner. Mailings for membership renewals/party invites went out last Wednesday.

Committee Reports:

Yaesu DR-2X repeater promotion – Dan reviewed the current retail cost of this repeater, showed a You-Tube video of analog vs. digital signal comparison, and presented a pros and cons list. Shawn KD9KGQ made a motion to submit the application for purchase of the DR-2X repeater and analog board for \$730. Dave KB9EWG seconded the motion. A vote was then taken among the 18 paid members in attendance, constituting a quorum, with 16 voting for and 2 against. Dan will take care of the paperwork and submit to Yaesu.

New Business:

Nominations and voting for 2020 Executive Board – Bill KE9XQ made a motion that all current board members be nominated for re-election. Three calls for further nominations was made, with none being indicated. Current board members Dan, Bill, David, Drew, Carl, Rick, and Shawn all accepted the nominations. Since the standing rules state the Executive Board shall consist of seven members – six elected by the membership, and the seventh being the Station Trustee who is appointed by the Board, those nominated were elected unanimously.

2020 RARC Board members therefore consist of :

President – Dan Abts

Vice-President – David Peters

Secretary – Rick Kolter

Treasurer – Drew Neve

Member-at-Large - Carl Thurston

Member-at-Large – Bill Wood

Station Trustee – Shawn Hicks

Motion to Adjourn: 8:21 PM, 0221 UTC

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2020

RARC Sunday Night 2Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for January are:
 January 5...Rick, KD9GVS
 January 12...Kevin, KC9ZGD
 January 19...David, KD9EPN
 January 26...Shawn, KD9KGQ

January 7...Annual Christmas Dinner at Schmitty's Restaurant. Social Hour at 5 PM and Dinner at 6 PM.

January 20...Trustee Meeting at 5:30 PM at the Perkins Restaurant, 9428 Hwy 16, Onalaska, WI.

January 25...Winter Field Day held at the park shelter on Quincy Street in Onalaska, WI. Entrance and parking are on Monica Lane which runs parallel to Quincy 1 block north.

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday, December 16th, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 5:39 PM, 2339 UTC

Members Present : Dan AB9TS, Bill Wood KE9XQ, Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Greg Miller K9LEC, Roger Reader KA9BKK, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, David Peters KB9EWG

Approval of Minutes: November 18th, 2019 minutes previously approved at annual meeting

Treasurer's Report: Available upon request from Drew, AB9NE

Drew's year end documents are sitting out on Dropbox for the board members. They all look good, as well as does the yearly audit.

Officer's Report:

Dan circulated the "Who does What list" to the group to solicit volunteers for 2020.

Committee Reports:

Yaesu DR-2X repeater promotion – The order has been mailed in, waiting for a confirmation from Yaesu. The voice board add-on will be ordered later.

Program ideas for 2020 – Will compile a list from left over topics from last year, as well as all new suggestions received from the membership, and take a vote for the most requested programs.

Old Business:

Fox Hunt – likely try to schedule this in 2020, antennas and offset antenna attenuators will be required

ARES/RACES – Kevin KC9ZGD has been approved as the new EC for La Crosse Co. The Monroe Co. ARES/RACES net is 8:00 PM Monday's on the 146.805 repeater.

New meeting site – working out very well, no complaints

Rotary Lights – Shawn advised Jan. 25th at 5:30 at La Crosse Center is the appreciation banquet. He and one other person will attend.

Club callsign expires 4-4-20 – Roger will submit renewal paperwork. Current call sign to be retained for the time being.

Newsletter – Greg passed around the new format which looks great.

Newsline broadcast on Sunday Net – Can we implement a rotation as is done for the net control stations ?

Skywarn Appreciation Day – Bill still has the mystery antenna in his vehicle. Will hang on to it for use at Winter Field Day.

Balloon Launch – Still on hold, waiting for QRP labs.

January Holiday Party – All set to go, 20 rsvp's so far.

New Business :

Winter Field Day – 1-25-20 Ball Park Shelter is reserved, Club radios will be there, either in trailer or Greg will remove and bring radios only, depending on the weather. End-fed and mystery antenna will be utilized.

Club Photo Album – Roger will scan all photos to CD for the Club archive.

Club items stored at Greg's place – need a plan going forward on where to store these items. Some items could be sold at our swap fest, or advertised on the Sunday net.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:05 PM, 0105 UTC

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 consists of news and information of interest to the Amateur Radio community as a whole. Guest editorials and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome.

Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Greg Miller at KA9FOZ@gmail.com.

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 there 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 LaCrescent, 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 Monday of the month at Perkins Restaurant, 9428 State Road 16, Onalaska, WI 54650 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 401 West Avenue in LaCrosse.

Below are listed your RARC 2019 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS Email...ab9ts@yahoo.com

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

Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS Email...rckolter@gmail.com

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

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

Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ Email...ke9xq@charter.net

Repeater Trustee...Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC Email...ka9foz@gmail.com