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A War of Survival...submitted by Carl KC9HDS

As Americans, we are used to war. We prefer peace but seldom see it. Our very nation was formed by the crucible of war. Even before our War of Independence, we were involved in a war of some sort or other. Over history there have been over 650,000 American battlefield fatalities as a result. Again we find ourselves locked in a war, a war of survival. This is a war that few saw coming. It is a war with a different sort of enemy. An invisible, pernicious, and unforgiving enemy like we have seldom seen before. It threatens to result in even more American deaths than what we have experienced in all of the wars that were fought in our history. Oh yes, we did have another war like this in 1918 where millions of Americans died. That time, it just went away after a time. This time it is different. This enemy can only be defeated by our active war against it. It is a solitary sort of war where we are forced into quarantine, social distancing, washing of hands and the wearing of masks. This war is especially frustrating because it does no good to point a finger at the source of it or what failings resulted in it's coming to our shores. It respects no boundaries. It is totally indifferent to race, religion, age, or sex. It is equally deadly to all. It does seem to be more prone to brown skinned victims, especially if they have pre-existing

conditions, are over 60 years of age, or have allergic reactions of one sort or another.

There is another underlying enemy that we need to defeat as well. It is the frustrating enemy of misinformation, ignorance, and political prejudice. In spite of our living in a time of universal access to information, we often fall victim to those who spread misinformation via various multi media sources. It is difficult at times to ferret out the truth of statements and reports found on the air, in the written press, and on the internet. We often fall victim to all sorts of things that play on our biases and prejudices. All one needs to do is to scan some of the sources of information available to see that there is a conflict of views available there. What is truth, what is misleading, and what are out and out lies is often not easy to discern. The result is chaos. This may, in a way be even more deadly than the virus itself, as it pits us against ourselves. As in an oft repeated quote from "Pogo," "We have met the enemy, and he is us!" We need to realize that we are all in this together and to survive this onslaught we must work together to ensure our survival as members of our nation, world and even the human race.

It is not all gloom and doom. Once again the might of our

united technologies have come up with weapons to combat the virus itself. It has been a world wide effort to achieve this and it was done by many different sources in several different countries working at this problem in a most open and swift manner to achieve such amazing results. It isn't over yet, but we can see that there is hope for the survival of the human race. These new vaccines that have been developed so quickly are the only way so far that we can combat this virulent enemy. That may be the easy part. The eradication of the CORVID-19 virus, though key to our survival may not be enough to ensure our ultimate survival as we need to eradicate bias, prejudice, and ignorance as well. This last battle is going to be especially hard as, because of the necessity to keep social distancing, our children have been forced into a mode of learning that is not always so easy to do. Distance learning via the internet is far from ideal. Many students have found it very difficult to manage what is needed to succeed using this sort of distant learning. So many students have fallen behind in their education as a result. It is hoped that they will be able to catch up once this pandemic is over.



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Holiday Greetings to everyone !

Well this is my first "article" ever turned in for The Key, believe it or not, and it comes as the new President of the RARC. I thought I would give it a try and see if I can keep up the good work that Dan, AB9TS did in 2020 as President.

We had Club board member nominations and elections in December, then the new board got together to decide on the officer positions for 2021: Yours Truly as President, David Peters KB9EWG as Vice President, Ron Severson KD9OHQ as Secretary, Drew Neve AB9NE as Treasurer, Shawn Hicks KD9KGG as Repeater Trustee, as well as Steve Becker W9DXE and Carl Thurston KC9HDS also as Trustees. We look forward to working together to keep the Club moving forward.

Our January meeting will be on the 5th at 7:00 PM. Ken W9GM has graciously agreed to give his presentation on Packet Radio. Here is the Zoom meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/4371634806>. We will also announce the Club award recipients for 2020.

Be watching your mailboxes for Club membership renewal information for 2021. Dues remain the same at \$20 per member and \$25 for a family membership. Please try to send yours in by February 15th.

Some ARRL sponsored eventgs coming up in January for you contesters out there include: ARRL Kids Day Jan. 2nd, ARRL RTTY round-up also Jan. 2nd, North American QSO Party Jan 9th for CW and Jan. 16th for SSB, ARRL VHF Contest Jan. 16th, and Winter Field Day Jan. 30th and 31st. Check out the ARRL website for more information. I think the Kids Day event is especially important as a way to plant a seed and get more young people involved in Amateur Radio.

As a reminder if you have any submissions for the Club Newsletter, The Key, please send them to our new editor, Kelley Becker at kellyLL23@hotmail.com. Feel free to contact me with any other comments or suggestions at rckolter@gmail.com.

73 for now, Rick KD9GVS



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR January 2021

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

January 3, 2021	Rick kd9gvs
January 10, 2021	David kd9epn
January 17, 2021	Shawn kd9kgg
January 24, 2021	Mark kb9ofk
January 31, 2021	Carl kc9hds

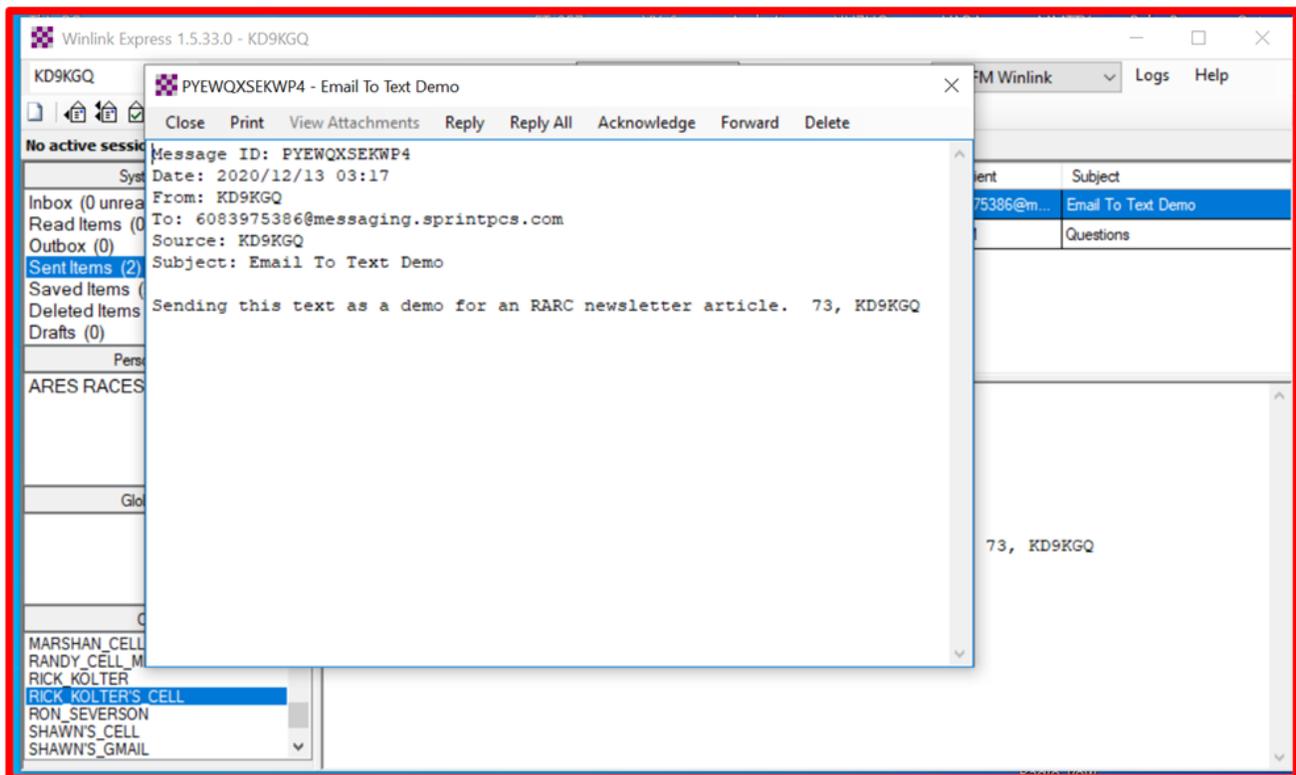
- ◆ January 5...Program Night, Time: 07:00 PM, <https://zoom.us/j/4371634806>
- ◆ January 18...Trustee Meeting, Time: 05:30 PM, <https://zoom.us/j/4371634806>

Winlink Email to Cell Phone Text

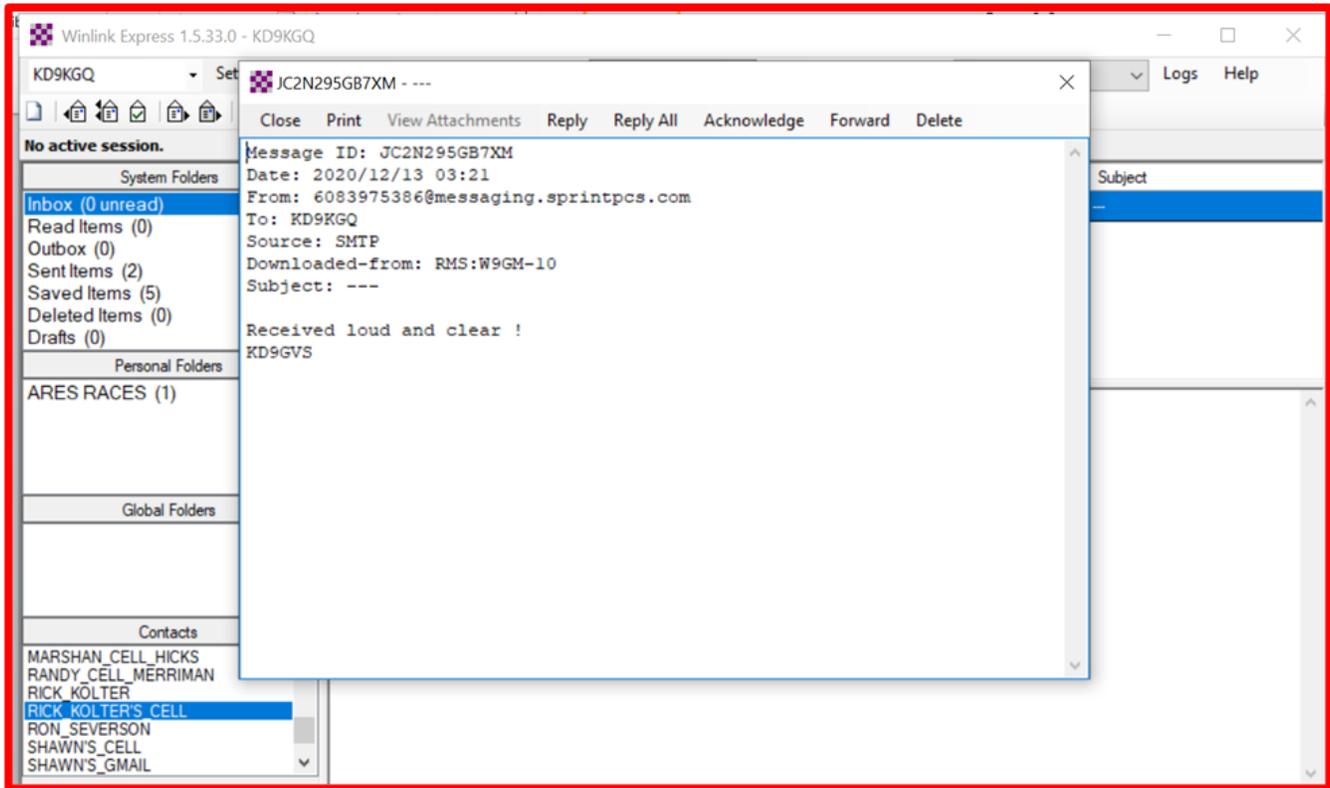
While some or most of you may know this already, it is possible to send an email to one of your personal contacts as a SMS text. This is useful in the business world when you may need to contact a customer to give a quick, short and urgent update on a project.

Winlink Email allows you to do the same in an emergency situation. If a natural disaster occurred in my local area that disrupted the communication infrastructure, I would want to give an update to my mom in Florida and my mother-in-law in Illinois. The message may be as simple as "ALL FAMILY MEMBERS AND PETS ARE SAFE, WILL CONTACT YOU IN A COUPLE OF DAYS".

By planning ahead and entering in emergency contacts in your Winlink account you can be prepared to do this. The following is a screen shot of a Winlink Email to SMS text sent to our very own Rick KD9GVS.



Rick KD9GVS responded as shown below.



The following was borrowed from the www.techjunkie.com page dated July 18, 2019. It provides the email address suffix for various cell phone carriers. You would just need to know your Emergency Contact's cell phone number and cell phone carrier.

Here are the email addresses for some US carriers. If you're outside the US or yours is not listed, the address should be on the company website.

- AT&T: number@txt.att.net (SMS), number@mms.att.net (MMS)
- T-Mobile: number@tmomail.net (SMS & MMS)
- Verizon: number@vtext.com (SMS), number@vzwpx.com (MMS)
- Sprint: number@messaging.sprintpcs.com (SMS), number@pm.sprint.com (MMS)
- XFINITY Mobile: number@vtext.com (SMS), number@mypixmessages.com (MMS)
- Virgin Mobile: number@vmobl.com (SMS), number@vmpix.com (MMS)
- Tracfone: number@mmst5.tracfone.com (MMS)
- Metro PCS: number@mymetropcs.com (SMS & MMS)
- Boost Mobile: number@sms.myboostmobile.com (SMS), number@myboostmobile.com (MMS)
- Cricket: number@sms.cricketwireless.net (SMS), number@mms.cricketwireless.net (MMS)
- Republic Wireless: number@text.republicwireless.com (SMS)
- Google Fi (Project Fi): number@msg.fi.google.com (SMS & MMS)
- U.S. Cellular: number@email.uscc.net (SMS), number@mms.uscc.net (MMS)
- Ting: number@message.ting.com
- Consumer Cellular: number@mailmymobile.net
- C-Spire: number@cspire1.com
- Page Plus: number@vtext.com

Where you see 'number' this is where you would add the cell number of the person you're forwarding the email to. For example, 1235556789@txt.att.net.
73, Shawn KD9KGQ





RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday, December 21, 2020 Board Meeting

Call to order: 5:45 PM

Members Present : Dan AB9TS, David KB9EWG, Bill KE9XQ, Shawn KD9KGQ, Drew AB9NE, Carl KC9HDS, Rick KD9GVS, Steve W9DXE, Ron KD9OHQ, Kelley KD9LQW

The first act of the new board was selection of officers for 2021. Rick Kolter is the President, Dave Peters Vice President, Drew Neve Treasurer, Ron Severson Secretary, Shawn Hicks Repeater Trustee, Steve Becker and Carl Thurston members at large.

Discussion of the Awards for 2020 was held and it was decided to hold a zoom club meeting instead of the usual Christmas Party where awards are typically presented. The meeting will have a program on Packet Radio presented by Ken, W9GM.

Club Audit was conducted by Dan Abts and Bill Wood, results are the accounts are in order and true and correct. Treasurer Drew Neve reported the finances and is available upon request.

Discussion on annual membership drive and suggestion to reach out to MVARC members to invite them to attend RARC meetings. Rick Kolter and Roger Reader are sending out due's notices to current members.

Discussion about repeater controller and cavities that the club has along with what other club owned items could be disposed of, it is suggested that an inventory of items be made that are stored at Greg Millers QTH to make it possible to decide what to do with excess items.

Discussion about Winter Field Day, it will probably be similar to Summer with operators doing it independently from home or individual locations.

A donation was made to the Parkinson's Foundation in the name of SK Keith Hollatz.

Other discussion about club officers' duties and transfer of materials to new officers.

Motion to Adjourn: 7:28 PM

Wanderings.....By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Reading for technical information, education, or for pleasure are all good reasons for reading. I confess that I do not read as much as I used to. Time was, I would read anything and everything that I could get my hands on. Learning to read and comprehend what has been written was not easy for me. I was so slow about getting with it, that I had a teacher give me a "Dick and Jane" reader to encourage my pursuit of reading. I still have that book, more for sentimental reasons than for actual reading material. It did open the door to the wonders of the written word. This is not to say that I was ever a very good student, as I had difficulty getting excited about most of the things that were taught in school. My reading interest has always been very pedestrian, the result has been a crazy quilt of information, rather than a linear progression subject by subject. Because of my approach to reading, I would jump from subject to subject, with little cohesiveness to my endeavors.

My approach to Amateur Radio is much like my approach to reading. If a given point catches my interest, I tend to dig into it as long as it holds my interest. When another point surfaces, I move on to that, regardless of whether I successfully mastered the previous point. This is why I feel that my knowledge of Amateur Radio is like a block of Swiss cheese, very firm, but full of holes. It is for that reason that I don't do much as an Elmer to new Hams. I would like to do it, but I'm afraid that I might not be able to do a reasonable job of it. I've had to settle on being a VE. It is the best way that I know of to encourage new Hams to get involved with Amateur Radio.

I recently got a book from ARRL entitled "Hiram Percy Maxim" by Alice Clink Schumacher. By sheer determination, I managed to finish it. Not because it wasn't well written, but because her writing style is so different that I had a hard time keeping going. I must admit that it portrays Hiram Percy Maxim in a most positive light. He was definitely a most amazing individual. He was very interested in nearly everything. He was a master of everything that he turned his attention to and was so well balanced that he was able to be a humorist, a writer, a designer, an electrical engineer, an automotive and aeronautical pioneer as well as his lasting interest and support of Amateur Radio.

A more fitting Father of Amateur Radio would be hard to imagine. He was so welcoming to everyone and was so understanding of other's points of view. He listened well and sought the best for everyone. He was the founder and president of the ARRL and the editor of QST. I wish that I was half as open, generous, knowledgeable and friendly as he was. He was well liked by all who knew him. When he died the whole world mourned his passing. It is truly amazing how well liked and respected he was. I find it hard to imagine another person who could even come close to the achievements that he attained. His story is most inspirational.



How to prevent ESD damage

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here are some tips from Keysight Technologies, one of the leading electronic test equipment companies, on how to prevent ESD from damaging your electronics.

USE A GROUNDED WRIST STRAP whenever you are handling equipment or boards. Using a grounded wrist strap prevents your body from building up charge and causing damage when this built-up charge discharges into your equipment or test boards. Make sure to connect that alligator clip to ground!



USE GROUNDED WORK SURFACES OR MATS

for your boards. Do NOT use static generating or insulating materials as a work surface. Non-grounded mats and static generating/insulated materials can inductively charge boards, especially exposed ones. When connecting a charged board to equipment, the board can cause damage by discharging into the equipment's inputs.

KEEP CHARGED MATERIALS AT LEAST 0.3 METERS FROM EXPOSED ASSEMBLIES.

This includes plastics, foam, or other materials that can build up charge. Having a charged material near an exposed assembly can inductively charge the assembly. The assembly can then discharge into the equipment's inputs.

DISCHARGE YOUR CABLES BEFORE CONNECTING THEM TO YOUR EQUIPMENT.

Electrostatic charges can build up on test probes and test leads, so it's important to discharge them before connecting them to your test equipment:

Ensure your device is off.

Connect your cable to your device.

Attach a 50 Ω shunt to the open end of the cable.

Remove the shunt and immediately attach your device to your equipment. This prevents the center conductor of your cable from discharging stored charge into your equipment. A charged assembly can charge connected cables.

USE BOARD STANDOFFS AS NEEDED. In some situations, you need board standoffs to provide extra insulation for your exposed assemblies. This prevents your grounded mats from making unwanted connections on your board.

NEVER USE "PINK" PACKING MATERIAL FOR BOARD TRANSPORT OR AS A WORK SURFACE. While many people think pink packing material is ESD safe, in most cases it easily builds up unwanted charge. Unless continuous, thorough testing is done, treat pink packing materials as charged.

CAP UNUSED EQUIPMENT INPUTS to avoid accidental ESD and physical damage.

Damage often occurs by accidentally contacting equipment inputs. Capping unused inputs protects them from incidental ESD damage.

USE ESD-SAFE BAGS WHEN TRANSPORTING BOARDS. This protects boards from ESD damage while moving between ESD-safe locations.

DO NOT OVERDRIVE EQUIPMENT INPUTS. Start your testing at the least sensitive input setting and zoom in on your signal. Additionally, observe the maximum input levels for your specific equipment. The least sensitive setting is the most resilient, so starting there ensures that your inputs are at safe operating levels

After I posted this to my blog, Dave, N8SBE offered some further tips. He writes:

Grounded heel straps also help reduce static charge. Test them with a floor tester every time you put them on. The floor needs to be somewhat conductive—not metal, that’s a safety hazard—so use conductive wax on tiles, or conductive carpet to drain of electrostatic charges.

Keep materials, such as styrofoam cups, that form electrostatic charges easily away from your workspace. A styrofoam cup can generate thousands of volts.

Keep the humidity up in the workspace. That helps to keep static generation down as well.

I like to think that I follow ESD-safe procedures, but there are a couple of things here that I hadn’t thought about before. For example, I’d never really thought about discharging test equipment cables before connecting them. I think that’s a good tip

To learn more, go to <https://www.keysight.com/find/PreventESD>

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he’s not worrying about electrostatic discharge, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.



"A ham - pod?"

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: Kelley Becker at KelleyLL23@hotmail.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 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 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 2021 Board of Trustees and contact information.

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

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

Secretary.....Ron Severson, KD9OHQ Email...ronaldseverson54@gmail.com

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

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

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