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Season's Greetings for 2023...

From Thanks Giving to the New Year, the members of the RARC have a lot to be thankful for. I suspect that most of our members have been so concerned with the events of the world at large to even pay much attention to what has been happening with Ham Radio in general and our local club in particular. Thankfully, we managed to dodge a major problem that was looming in our club's future. I have devoted a number of articles for "The Key" to the subject of the need for more involvement in the leadership of the RARC. At our Annual Meeting on December 6th, with a quorum of the membership present and on Zoom, we were able to come up with the seven people needed to be nominated and elected to the Executive Board. Once those individuals were formally nominated, the next step followed; i.e.: the new slate of officers were selected and we now have a new (well sort of) Executive Board. I say sort of, because our new Executive Board is made up of the members of our previous Executive Board, but all are in different positions for the new year. The list of our new Officers is as follows: Drew KB9NE President, Carl KC9HDS Vice President, Scott KB3MKD Treasurer, Shawn KD9MGQ Secretary, Dave KB9EWG Trustee, Bill KE9XQ Trustee, and Roger KA9BKK Repeater Coordinator. So you see we again have the needed Officers to comply with the rules for 501(c)3 non profit organizations.

We are planning for a late post holiday party this year, in February instead of January. We will have Winter Field Day January 28th and 29th in the shelter on Monica Lane as we have had in previous years. The new Executive Board is working on a full schedule of events to fill out the rest of 2023. There will be a calendar of those events sent out to the membership once the Executive Board has set the events and the dates of this coming year.

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UPCOMING Events for December 2022

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

January 1, 2023	Rick kd9gvs
January 8, 2023	Shawn kd9kgq
January 15, 2023	Mark kb9ofk
January 22, 2023	David kd9epn
January 29, 2023	Rick kd9gvs
- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **January 3...**Monthly club meeting at UUF La Crosse
- ♦ **January 16...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable (formerly Arterial Bar and Grill) All members are welcome to attend.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings to all Club Members,

As 2023 approaches, it does so with the promise of new opportunities and new challenges. While opportunities don't seem to linger, lingering seems to be a hallmark of challenges. We will see opportunities throughout the year. I hope we'll all keep our eyes open for them, and please point them out if they are not readily apparent to all.

We've got a new Board to begin the year, but it is largely the same members performing different roles. It really lays bare the challenge that has been in front of not only this club, but several organizations of different sorts, that is the lack of new membership. I see the same thing in churches and other groups of which I am a member.

New membership will have to be a priority for not only this year, but subsequent years as well. It is a challenge that the Board will not be able to fix by itself. It will be a team effort on the part of all of us. I have noticed that people ask me about my handheld radio if I carry it in different settings. Some people respond with curiosity, some people respond with "Ham radio... I didn't know people still did that!" Some people respond with interest. I have resolved to not be shy about encouraging people to think about getting involved in it. It is a fun and very rewarding pursuit. Everytime we make contact with another station, no matter how distant, it represents a success. Not all hobbies feature that. Musicians and athletes all remember the errors that they make in a performance, they

can taint the memory of it. I don't have to copy Morse Code perfectly to have a successful QSO. This is one of the things I enjoy about this activity.

I hope you'll join me in inviting new people to participate in our club's activities. I have been trying to identify new operating activities for the club. Please participate and bring visitors. They are an excellent opportunity for new people with an interest to spend a little time on the air. A person coming to visit us not knowing what to expect, but going home after talking over the radio with somebody in Montreal or Pasadena might be inspired to be our club President in a couple of years. You might be the person that new ham remembers as their Elmer. That is another distinction that not all hobbies offer.

2023 promises to be an enjoyable and fulfilling year for us. You'll see the club trying some new things, and the ascending sunspot cycle has already had a positive impact on propagation. You can enjoy them as part of the club, but I assure you that you'll enjoy them more as the host of a newcomer.

Drew, AB9NE



Give me more time...I'm working on it...

Time.

It waits for no man. Use it wisely. It is precious. We have all heard those cliches. Since I have retired this last August, managing the extra time I may have can sometimes be a challenge. I said "may" because it usually doesn't work out that way.

What does all that have to do with Amateur Radio? Well amateur radio is one of my hobbies, and managing time for one's hobbies can also be a challenge. One of the things I have done the last few months involved working with Dan, AB9TS, on installing the new repeater up at the existing 444.475 site. The actual set-up and physical installation was the easy part. Bolting it to the rack, reconnecting all cabling, and hitting the power button. That's when the real fun began.

The signal being output by the new repeater was very little to nothing. We checked some of the obvious things that were easy to accomplish such as existing connections, SWR, etc. But nothing we tried solved the issue. It was frustrating that a brand new repeater was not functioning as it should.

We let things go for a week or so, and thought about what our next steps would be. On one of the next trips up to the site, Dan brought his telescope along so we could get a closer look at the feedline and antenna, as we suspected a problem with one or both.

A look through that telescope appeared to tell a tale of a lightning strike as some point, in the form of physical damage to the feedline that could be seen near the top of tower.

So now what? I had thoughts of putting up a temporary antenna of some sort, just to at least get the repeater up and running to some de-

gree. Further inspection of the various feedlines and antennas attached to the tower revealed an unused feedline dangling from the rest along the side of the control building. We attached that unused line to Dan's VNA and everything tested good. We ran that line back into the building where we were able to connect it to the new repeater.

Success! The repeater was now putting out a very solid, strong signal as it was supposed to do.

Through some contacts with other local Hams, we found out that this antenna we are now utilizing on a temporary basis was thought to be used for a beacon installation that was no longer in service. We decided to keep things as is for now until a tower climber can be found to further assess what our next steps will be.

Now, for the second part of the story, and getting back to the "time" issue. One of the things this new repeater is capable of is accessing the Yaesu "WIRES-X" network, which basically allows world-wide access to communication with other Hams through the magic of the internet.

This is the part that still requires work on setting up. Lot's of stuff to read and learn on proper set-up procedures, but I am getting closer day by day. I want to take the "time" to drink it all in and the website "Hamoperator.com" has been an invaluable resource in this endeavor.

73 for now,
Rick
KD9GVS



Season's Greetings for 2023... (Continued)

The new Executive Board wishes to thank all of the members present and attending via Zoom of our Annual Meeting for their help in making it possible for our club to continue on for one more year. Perhaps there will be a ground swell of activity in our club to ensure that it will continue to be a vibrant and progressive Club. We have fulfilled the requirements for the ARRL Special Services designation and are working hard to see that our involvement in community events are set up and everything needed for our participation in them is in place. Already there are plans being made to increase the projects and presentations that our membership has grown accustomed to at our monthly meetings.

Things are still in the advanced planning stage for the exact events, programs, and projects that will be offered this coming year. All of our members are encouraged to get involved in those plans and partici-

pate in the events that will be set up. We are also planning to expand our recruitment policy to include more public exposure of our club in order to encourage new members to join. Our club has become rather complacent about many of these things. We need to be more proactive in new ways to gain new members. There needs to be more hands on projects and events that exhibit the kind of things that we can do to make the public aware of what Amateur Radio is all about and how we can offer our help when there is a need.

73

Carl



KC9HGS

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 Monday of the month at Fork and Fable 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 2022 Board of Trustees and contact information.

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

Vice-President.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

Secretary.....Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

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

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

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