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## Choices...

Choices, there are so many. When it comes to Amateur Radio, there are so many choices. The choices that are available are what makes it such an interesting hobby. One never gets bored with being on the air because of the choices. To list them all would be both difficult and futile, because of the vast array of possibilities. To single out one particular option when a rig is powered up is sometimes easy and sometimes not. Most Hams have a favorite Band or Mode of operation that they tend to go to regularly, and that is fine, but it can limit the resulting pleasure derived from the quest for QSOs. Every once and a while it is rather refreshing to step out of your comfort zone and try something different. If one method or frequency band becomes boring, one can always find a different thing to try. The list of possibilities seems to be endless. The old timers can be found in the AM band sometimes, or in the SSB Mode, but more and more of the newer Hams are opting for one of the Digital Modes. Here again there are many different choices to be made there as well. Some of the choices there are dictated by the brand of radio that you use. For the Yaesu people, there is always Wires X or for the Kenwood/iCom people there is D Star. Again there are so many different choices that it is hard at times to make up one's mind as to what to use.

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## UPCOMING Events for January 2025

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

January 5, 2025	Jon KD9WPD
January 12, 2025	Mark KB9OFK
January 19, 2025	David KD9EPN
January 26, 2025	Wayne K0WLO
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **January 7...**Post Holiday Party at Schmidty's
- ◆ **January 11...** Attenuator build at Stoddard American Legion
- ◆ **January 21...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.
- ◆ **January 25...**Winter Field Day

## Choices... (continued)

For many Hams, the choices are mainly limited by the License level that they have been able to attain. Naturally the higher the License grade that one has, the more choices that are available to them. However, with the advent of the Digital Modes that are primarily found in the UHF/VHF spectrum, that is such a big consideration as a Tech License is sufficient to be able to operate those Modes.

Still, to some Hams such Modes as EchoLink, PSK and Packet Modes are viable options that don't require more advanced Licenses. While some of the Digital Modes do require those higher licenses. It can be seen that for the beginner Ham, there are still many favorable and useful options.

This is one of the many reasons that Amateur Radio is still a viable means of communication. As can be seen also, it is true that "If all else fails, there is Amateur Radio to fall back on."

Another area of interest to many Hams is the design, and building of antenna systems and even transmitters. It is fairly easy to get started with building antennas. There are so many rather simple yet effective antenna types and designs to consider. The easiest by far are the various types of dipole antennas. The beauty of those antennas is their simplicity and their relatively low cost. For many of them, all that you need is some wire and some connectors to build, set up and use them.

For the more highly skilled Ham there is the designing and building of transceivers themselves. Naturally such projects take much more time, money, and skill than the making of dipole or j pole antennas. Not everyone is up to the challenge of building a transceiver but anyone can build a dipole antenna. So you see, there are many choices of projects, modes and bands to choose from. Again, those choices, and many, many others are what makes Amateur Radio so exciting and inviting to so many people. When you sit down in front of your rig and power it up, remember that there are many more choices to make as you get on the air. What ever mode, band, or method that you choose, it all works to get you involved in radio and the making of QSOs.

So happy CQing and always remember

the Ham's Prayer..."I'm a Ham and I can transmit, if I have to, I guess!" 73 from KC9DS



## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

RARC Members and Friends:

We've reached the end of 2024. The Riverland Amateur Radio Club has had a good year. It's been a year that has seen the club do things that it hadn't before (technician-class licensing courses and multi-transmitter entry in WI QSO Party: we earned a third-place finish), carried on many of our usual traditions (St. Patrick's Day Parade and Field Day), and deepened our connection with events that were new in 2023 (Hams in the Park and Steppin' Out in Pink). These events were all conducted with distinction by the members who participated.

We recognized them during the year, but I would also like to acknowledge the two long-time club members we lost during 2024: Arthur Osburn and Robert Seaquist. I still expect to see them at meetings and/or events...

For those of you who have not heard...

The club also held its Annual Meeting earlier in December, and it included the election of new officers. The 2025 Board will consist of:

President: David Peters

Vice President: Amos Magnuson

Treasurer: Mike McCarty

Secretary: Jon Melbo

Members at Large:

Scott Cross

Drew Neve

With that, my time as President will come to a close.

I'd like to thank those who served with me and supported me on the Board the past two years. I'd also like to thank those members who are not on the Board but stepped forward when a need presented itself. It is thanks to your efforts that the club remains the active organization that it is today.

I know we'll continue to support the Board as it steers us into the challenges and opportunities that will face us in 2025 and beyond.

Tnx es 73

Drew Neve

AB9NE









# RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST

JUNE 21, 2025

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM



- Door Prizes
- Flea Market
- Buy—Sell—Trade
- Food Vendor
- Handicap Accessible
- Talk in 146.97



**VE Test Session at 9:00 AM**



**Advanced Table Reserve And Entrance Form**

Entrance Fee \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Table Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ [Does not include Entrance Fee]

Limited electrical hook-up available on a 1st come 1st serve. Indicate here if you are requesting electrical hook-up  (Checking box does not guarantee availability of an electrical receptacle)

Advanced form will be held at the entrance table for you. No pre-fest mailings.

Mail form and fee to:  
RARC  
Box 621  
Onalaska, WI 54650

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Nuggets

Save the date

Saturday, February 1, 2025: Minnesota QSO party

Sunday, March 9, 2025: Wisconsin QSO party

Saturday, June 21, 2025: Swapfest



## 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](mailto: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](http://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 Tuesday of the month at Las Margaritas 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.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email... kb9ewg@gmail.com

Vice-President.....Amos Magnuson, KE9AHQ Email... ke9ahq@gmail.com

Secretary.....Jon Melbo. KD9WPD Email melbo.jon@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Michael McCarty KB9HV

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

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

Repeater Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK Email...readers@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net