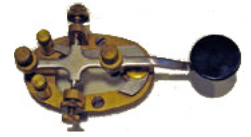


# T H E K E Y



## Repeaters

146.970 PL 100  
444.475 PL 131.8



## RARC Net

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



## Programs

**July 6: Wollen Weber Antenna Arrays** presented by Gary Webb, NI9V  
**July 24, Picnic**, noon, Ferkel Grounds, north of West Salem.

**August 3: RF Grounding** presented by Mike Mohler, W9MBM

## 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.

**"Meeting of Elmers,"** advice, discussion and help is at 6 p.m. in the conference room in the Gundersen Clinic.



Mitch Schultz, WB0GKH, shows grandson, Jack Mitchell, how to score QSOs during Field Day.

## RARC Field Day termed 'success'

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Field Day 2010 was a complete success! Every one there worked very hard to make everything go smoothly.

The feeling that I got from the participants was that a good time was had by all, and that is the underlying goal of Field Day, beyond the necessity of testing our preparedness for an emergency situation.

There were some things that went much better than in the past and some that kind of got lost in translation, but all in all it was a good, entertaining, educational event.

Roger Reader, KA9BKK, and Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, were real work horses when it came to the setup, maintenance, and tear down of the antennas and other needed structures.

The logging was superb this year compared to previous years, due to the expertise and devotion of Dan, AB9TS, and Dave Abts. They pulled together all of the accessories needed to ensure that every QSO was logged, counted, and reported.

Thanks to Van Elston, WA9FIO, and Red Haines, WO0W for enabling us to go digital. They worked for a long time prior to Field Day to make sure that we had a digital station and as a result our number of digital QSOs went up dramatically this year.

### By the numbers

**703 CW contacts**  
**11 digital**  
**105 phone**  
**Every state except Alaska**

Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE, and Jim Wiskow, AA9BB, did a nice job handling the media, and much of the basic logistics of the event. Seaquist worked behind the scenes to ensure that many overlooked loose ends were tied up.

Those who operated included: Mark Cassellius,  
See "Field Day," page 2



Visit the RARC Web page at <http://rarc.qth.com/> to find information about the club and links to other ham related sites.

Field Day, continued from page one



Dan Abts, AB9TS, left, sets up a logging computer for Van Elston's, WA9FIO, digital Field Day station.

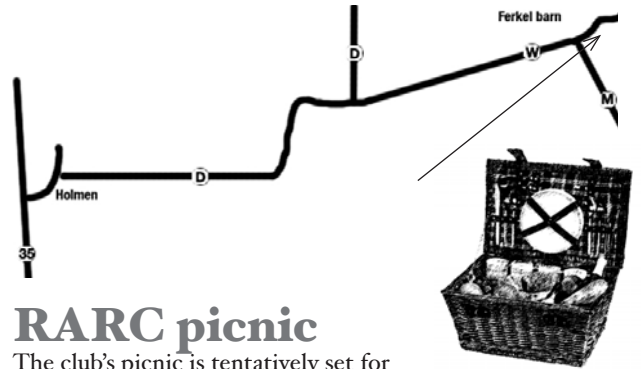
KB9OFK, Mark Smick, N9UNW, Elston, Reader, O'Brien, Seaquist, Abts, and of course, Mitch Schultz, WBØGKH.

Those who did a great deal of running for this and for that included: Art Osborne, WØJDC, Bill Wood, KE9XQ, Tom Skemp, NF9E, and Gary Webb, NI9V.

It would have been better had we not had our operating hours broken up by the storm. The station lost about five hours of operating time due to the storm.



An "eggbeater" antenna to receive satellite UHF transmissions.



RARC picnic

The club's picnic is tentatively set for Noon, Saturday, July 24, at the Ferkel barn. To get there go about seven miles east of the Holmen Village Hall, first on CR "D." Continue straight on CR "W" toward N7271 CR "W." It's a barn on the south side of the road about a quarter mile east of the address.

VE testing for licensing

The RARC will continue providing VE testing for licensing. The fee remains 15.

Tests will be administered Saturdays, Sept. 11, and Nov. 13.

Each session will begin at 9 a.m. at the American Red Cross office, 2927 Losey Blvd. S., La Crosse.

Calendar

- July 3, La Crosse Chileda Classic, 7 a.m.
- July 6, Riverland Amateur Radio Club meet ing, 7 p.m.
- July 24, Riverland Amateur Radio Club pic nic, Ferkel grounds, north of West Salem.
- Sept. 11, Riverland Amateur Radio Club Amateur Swapfest, Church of Christ Acapella, 3506 S. 28th St., La Crosse.



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, Wis. 54650



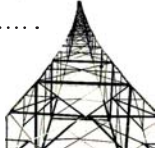
President ..... Mark Cassellius, KB9OFK  
 Vice president.... Mike Mohler, W9MBM  
 Treasurer..... Red Haines, WOØW  
 Secretary..... Carl Thurston, KC9HDS  
 Newsletter editor.. Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE  
 Address correspondence regarding the club and the newsletter to Red Haines, WOØW, [woØw@arrl.net](mailto:woØw@arrl.net)

This newsletter is sent by e mail to current and past RARC members and others. If you wish not to receive it, send a note to [woØw@arrl.net](mailto:woØw@arrl.net) and ask that your address be deleted from the list.

## Repeater Note

### The 131.8 tone story

By Van Elston, WA9FTO



Here is a little discussion about the proposed and voted tone access change for the RARC 146.97 repeater.

According to the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters, there are 15 repeaters in SW Wisconsin that require tone access using 131.8 Hz. Tone access is now required on all Wisconsin repeaters. This includes the seven repeaters in the immediate La Crosse area with the other eight a little further out,

but reachable from most locations with a good location or bigger antenna.

**The RARC will change tone access of 97 repeater in September to 131.8 Hz**

What we do not need is another repeater or unique tone access, or group with its own unique operating characteristics and small following. We have already have three local VHF and four UHF repeaters, diluting the local repeater use by everyone having their "own thing." Having a different tone dilutes it further.

This change is an effort to be more inclusive with our operations. We originally used a tone of 100.0 Hz to be able to link up with the Rochester area repeater, because we were coordinated in the State of Minnesota, before Wisconsin required a tone access. That linking effort fell apart years ago, and will not likely be re activated.

Now, to enable some of the older rigs that have been set up with a tone generator, or rigs that have only a limited selection of available tones, the RARC will change its tone access in September to 131.8 Hz. This change is acceptable to both state coordinators.

So, limber up your programming finger and get ready for 131.8 Hz. You will receive more reminders on the routine messages of the 146.97 repeater.



**Mark Smick, N9UNW, left, and Mark Cassellius, KB9OFK, provide some phone contacts for Riverland's Field Day station, W9UP.**

#### RARC Field Day

### It's all in the book...

Field Day is over for another year. Its after taste is bitter sweet. After having chaired or co chaired the RARC Field Day effort for several years, I feel that much progress has been made on a number of issues. This year an advance was made in many areas, not the least of which was the efficiency and dependability of the computer network logging system. Thanks to Dan, AB9TS, and Dave Abts, it went very smoothly.

I have looked upon my role in these Field Day efforts as one of a facilitator rather than a manager. My goal has always been to emulate the philosophy of the RARC in that inclusiveness rather than exclusiveness is the corner stone to a successful RARC event. With that in mind, I've done all that I could to make these last few events as open to all as possible. I have not always been successful at it but it wasn't for a lack of trying. Much more can and should be done in the future. I intend to be a contributing element in as many future events as possible, but I'm afraid that some one else will have to chair the event next year. I don't want to experience what so many have in the past, that have put so much of themselves into these events. My personal goal is to expand my role in other areas within the structure of the RARC. There is much to learn and experience and I feel that I've done all that I can as chair with regards to

our annual Field Day effort.

So I'm going back to the books and am going to study several areas that I've left dormant for far too long. While working on those issues, the need to eliminate excess baggage looms large and, like the proverbial elephant in the corner, this cannot be ignored any longer. To me the elimination of an elephant would be much simpler and perhaps easier than the mess that I'm about to confront. I once had a teacher who liked to say this riddle: "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer: "One bite at a time!" She also liked to say: "There is more than one way to get to K Mart!" And somehow that seems appropriate here also. I've been so intent on dealing with loose ends of others that I've let mine dangle far too long. Now I must face up to them and take one bite after another until I've finally cleared out the immense collection of useful but no longer wanted items in my domicile.

As I begin to deal with those items, I plan to finish the task of restoring the Heathkit Seneca VHF 1. I feel that the manifest destiny of the history of this transmitter deserves to be resolved soon. So with that in mind, I'm going to sign off for now, as I turn from one huge task to another and I look with interest as to what the future will bring.

## Heathkit Seneca saga

# The Quest is nearly over.....

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

In the last installment of the on going saga of the Heathkit Seneca that came to stay, I lamented the fact that there seemed to be an awful lot of needed information that was missing from the copies of the VHF r's manuals that I had found thus far. Since then I have tracked down a complete, pristine, original manual for the Seneca. Again it was kismet. There I was, poking around on eBay, looking for something else entirely when, as I was scrolling through a list of Heathkit items for sale, there it was! The very manual that I had pursued half way across the Internet, appeared on my screen. It had a starting bid of \$9.99, no bids, and there were three days left on the auction.



I was sorely tempted to enter my bid right then and there, but having dealt with hundreds of eBay auctions over the years, I knew that patience is a virtue. If I entered my bid too soon, it might trigger someone else to bid and I really didn't want to get into a bidding war with someone over this manual. This manual sells for around \$40, so I was eager to get this one for the starting bid if I could and save the difference.

Having watched this auction day after day, with still no activity; on the final day, with two hours left to go, I placed my bid. I reasoned that the most that I'd want to spend was about half of the retail price, and to be sure I bid \$21. This was at about 2200 on the final day, so I went to bed and when I got up at my usual 0500, I checked and found that I had won with the opening bid

of \$9.99. No one else had bid. I was glad of this result. Evidentially, no one else had an interest in this manual or they were all asleep, anyway, I had won.

Like everything else about this transmitter, there seems to be an element of fate involved with each piece of it. From its first appearance to the arrival of the original assembly and user's manual, it has been a mystery of coincidence as to how the pieces have come together. It almost seems that some one up there really wants me to put this thing together and make it work. That might be a bit of a stretch, but it has been a little spooky how all of this has happened.

It started simply enough when Bill Wood, KE9XQ, swapped it to me for a nibbler. It was missing its case, but I didn't mind. Next Roger Reader, KA9BKK, Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, and Dale Kinstler, KB9IPB, came to my door with a case for the Seneca. Next I tested the tubes in it and found that 9 of them were bad. Ron Martinmaki, W9EOA, opened his junk box to me and gave me eight of the needed tubes. Next, Kinstler, O'Brien and I went to a Hamfest at Stoughton in search of the remaining tube, a 6AN8, but found none, only to return home and have Kinstler find one in his junk box. Even stranger, I realized that I had acquired the correct microphone for this rig some years ago in a bunch of miscellaneous ham items that I bought on eBay. All of that, added to the manual's appearance, makes for an intriguing situation.

Now that I have the manual, I can finally install the correct crystals and get it on the air. The tuning and operating procedures for this model are just as arcane as the rest of its assembly has been, maybe even more so. I've read over the procedure several times but I must confess that until I can actually get it going, I have no real idea how it is supposed to work. The prospect of working with this radio is a bit daunting, so far the most complicated radio that I have worked is a Yaesu FT 101 EE. For a neophyte like me,

it is a bit scary to work with these older rigs, but I do find them very appealing and all of those knobs are very fascinating.

The challenge of mastering such complicated, sensitive and massive rigs is like no other endeavor that I can think of. It is demanding in both time and patience. It is not the sort of thing that one would want to try to do when your mind is elsewhere, as this thing is dangerous to the point of being deadly. I plan on operating it while on a rubber static mat and it will be plugged into an isolation transformer as an added safety precaution. With two built in power supplies and several hundred watts of input power, it is not something to trifle with.

All of that adds to the mystique of this large paperweight. I suspect that there aren't many people with the patience, determination, and drive that they are willing to spend on a hulk like this, but then maybe I'm wrong. Maybe there are more Hams out there who would just love to get their hands on one of these. Maybe there are some older Hams out there who grew up with one of these rigs. Maybe there are some Hams out there who saw the adds for these when they were young and dreamed of one day having one of their own. Maybe there are some other newer Hams out there who are intrigued by things that are as arcane as this. Maybe there are some younger Hams who feel the need to prove to their Elmers that they have got what it takes to be a "real Ham" like them. The requirements of passing code tests have gone, but maybe through the acquiring, restoration, and operation of old boat anchors like the Seneca some of us younger Hams may be able to prove our worth.

Anyway, now that I have the manual, I can put it all together. I'm guessing that what has transpired so far is the easy part, time will tell, learning to operate the Seneca and getting it on the air, may be the hardest part yet.