

# THE KEY

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League



### Repeater

146.970 PL 131.8



### RARC Net

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



### 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.



## RARC Field Day 2013



Bill Wood, KE9XQ, makes CW contacts in the station provided by Art Osborn, W0JDC.



Shirley Abts, KB9QKV, makes nutrition contacts.

**Calendar**



**Tue. July 2**

→ Riverland Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., Gundersen Health System, lower level meeting room 1.

**Sat. July 6,**

→ Communication support for Chileda Run/Walk. Tom O'Brien, chair.  
 → South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, 6:30 a.m., American Legion Post #434, 9327 S. Shepard Ave, Oak Creek.

**Sun. July 7**

→ Wisconsin Antique Radio Club free, 8 to 11 a.m., The Terminal, 5917 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee.

**Sat. July 20**

→ CVARC Tail Gate Swap Fest, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Eagles Club Parking Lot, 2855 HWY 53, Chippewa Falls.

**Wed-Sun., July 31-Aug 3**

→ EAA AirVenture 2013 special event station W9ZL operated by the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club.

**Sat. Aug. 3**

→ Lakes Area Amateur Club Hamfest, 7 a.m. 11 a.m., Lyons Town Hall, 6339 Hospital Rd., Lyons.

**Tue. Aug. 6**

→ Riverland Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., Gundersen Health System, lower level meeting room 1.

**Sat. Aug. 10**

→ Riverland ARC Swapfest, 8 a.m. 1 p.m., Onalaska Community Center, 515 Quincy St., Onalaska.  
 → Racine Megacycle Freefest, 7 a.m. 1 p.m., Fireman's Park, 9600 Charles St., Sturtevant.



**Club swapfest Aug. 10**

**The RARC Swapfest will be 8 a.m.- noon Sat. Aug. 10, at the Onalaska Community Center.**

**Admission is free and tables are free of charge.**

**The door prize drawing will be at 11 a.m. and you must be present to win.**

**Refer questions to Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783-0723.**

There are 10 types of people. Those that understand binary, and those that do not understand binary.

Make that 11 types. Those that understand binary, those that don't, and those who didn't grasp this joke even if they understand binary.

**VE testing for licensing**

The next RARC VE testing for licensing will be Sat. Sept. 7.  
 The required ARRL fee remains 15.  
 Those wishing to test must contact Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783 0723 or [readers@centurytel.net](mailto:readers@centurytel.net), to register five days in advance. No walk ins.  
 The session will begin at 9 a.m. at the American Red Cross office, 2927 Losey Blvd. S., La Crosse.

**Riverland Amateur Radio Club**

P.O. Box 621  
 Onalaska, Wis. 54650



President ..... Greg Miller, KA9FOZ  
 Vice president..... Van Elston, WA9FIO  
 Treasurer..... Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ  
 Secretary..... Carl Thurston, KC9HDS  
 Newsletter editor.. Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE  
 Address correspondence regarding the club to Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, [wb9bjq@charter.net](mailto:wb9bjq@charter.net)

This newsletter is sent by e mail to current and past RARC members and others. If you wish to change your address or subscription, e mail [KC9IWE@arrl.net](mailto:KC9IWE@arrl.net)

# RARC Field Day 2013



Dan Abts, AB9TS, left, and Art Osborn, W0JDC, check lists.



Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, left, and Van Elston, WA9FIO, work the digital station.

The club's annual Field Day foray, June 22-23, was a "success" according to its chair, Dan Abts, AB9TS. There was a fair number of participants and visitors at the A. Johnson Rd. site and there was some adventure too.

The number of contacts was down this year mainly because operations had to shut down for a number of hours due to the stormy weather, explained Abts. Five operators stayed over night but shut down about 3:30 a.m. due to storms. Operations didn't resume until Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, made pancakes and bacon.

One highlight was a new General class ham got on HF for the first time and made a lot of contacts. Abts reported that several other Hams got on the air that don't get the chance almost any other time of the year.

"We had contacts using CW, phone and digital modes. With bonuses we had more than 1,100 points," Abts said.

WKBT TV Channel 8 came Sunday morning and put the Riverland Amateur

Radio Club on the news in three different news casts.

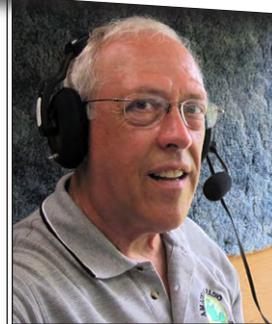
In addition to the fun on the radio, one visitor, who hopes to get licensed soon, brought his quad and hexacopters and gave a demonstration.

"I think everyone had a good time so I'd call it a success," Abts said.

Participants included: Abts, AB9TS; Shirley Abts, KB9QKV; Van Elston, WA9FIO; Roger Fedler, N9WNX; Miller, KA9FOZ; Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ; Art Osborn, W0JDC; Dave Peters, KB9EWG; Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE; Carl Thurston, KC9HDS; Bill Wood, KE9XQ; Larry Worthington, KC9HDP. There were another 14 visitors.



Dave Peters, KB9EWG, makes SSB contacts.



Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE.

## Jamboree On The Air Oct. 19

Boy Scouts can be expected to surround our radios Saturday, Oct. 19, for the Jamboree on the Air.

JOTA will run from midnight, Friday, Oct 18 through Sunday, Oct. 20. The Riverland Amateur Radio Club participation is set to run from 11 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Sat. Oct. 19.

Last year, JOTA worldwide participation reached just short of 700,000 Scouts operating from more than 13,500 amateur radio stations, operated by 22,500 amateur radio operators across 142 countries. In the USA we had 18,000+ Scouts on the air from 204 stations.

For operators planning to make Scout contacts, the BSA plans a JOTA Jump Start Friday evening. You can now get on the air and make some early contacts before the official start at midnight Friday, Oct. 18.



## Batteries on the plane

With all the summer travel coming up, what about transporting batteries by air? Veteran traveler John Parnell, K7HV, frequently travels with radio equipment and batteries on occasional three four week excursions to Central and South America to do volunteer work. He offers his notes.

“As far as traveling on airliners, gel cell batteries are permitted if they are labeled “non spillable” in conformance with the international IATA/ICAO regulations. All his gel cell batteries are labeled as such and some have a sticker referencing the IATA and ICAO regulations and the text “Not Restricted for Transport.” They do not have to be associated with wheelchairs. Other rules apply to wet cells but those are rarely transported by air. “Loose lithium batteries are restricted to carry on only and may not be larger than 100 Whr (about 7 Ah for a 12V battery, to be conservative). Lithium batteries installed inside a device like a laptop or cordless drill are permitted to be checked if there are precautions taken to keep the devices from turning on.” If you do need to put gel cells in checked luggage, Parnell recommends:

- Install and tape the terminal covers.
- Print the battery data sheet and highlight compliance notices.
- Protect the battery in some padding and place it inside a plastic bag with the data sheet.

## The pros of pro-words

By Dennis Rybicki, K9LGU/STM - WI

Do pro words make amateurs more professional? The pro's and con's of pro words for prose call for a pronouncement. When sending and receiving messages, good operators use procedural words for speed and accuracy. Miss something in a message? Knowing how to ask for it speeds the process.

“Say again, all after. . .”

“Say again, all before. . .”

“Repeat addressee.”

“Confirm \_\_\_\_\_”

“Say again, between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_”

“Need word after \_\_\_\_”

“Say again word before \_\_\_\_\_”

The sending station repeats the request (All after \_\_\_\_) and then gives the needed information. When asked to confirm a word, name, number, or group, the sender says, “Roger,” “Confirm,” or “Correct.” Or (if it's not) gives the correction.

We phonetically spell names and difficult or unusual words, but not the common ones. We start with the word “number” because it tells when we're starting. Otherwise, we don't label the parts of the message as we send them station of origin, check, place of origin, date, addressee, address, phone number, text, signature but we do keep the order, so the receiver can anticipate what's next.

In other words, we only say what we need to say. For example, before the addressee, it's not necessary to say “It's going to. . .” Obviously, it's going to someone, so we just say (and probably spell) the name. Phrases like “and the text is. . .” slow things down. Pro words speed things up. One might even say that the use of “pro's” is poetic.

### Operating tip

Adding a footstool under your operating desk can help circulation and avoid “sore spots” by lifting your legs above the chair cushion from time to time. It doesn't have to be fancy - even a shallow cardboard box turned upside down will work fine. An adjustable-height chair is also a great way to reduce operator fatigue.