

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.



Programs

The July meeting, Tuesday, July 1, is the **club picnic**, 3:30 - 11 p.m., Veteran's Memorial Park, West Salem.



Club meetings

Regular 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.



PICNIC

The club picnic will be Tuesday, July 1, at Shelter 4 in Veteran's Memorial Park, West Salem. Plans are for the picnic to run from 3:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Field Day another success for club

Chili, BBQ, cookies, potato salad and even some HF for seasoning as the Riverland Amateur Radio Club participated in ARRL Field Day, June 28-29.

A large number of club members, guests, elected officials and even a reporter attended the 5A event.

Of the five stations, there was conventional SSB, CW and digital, with a side demonstration of Software Defined Radio.

The event was hosted at the QTH of

Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, and chaired by Dan Abts, AB9TS. Abts did not have time to prepare the full accounting at publication time. It appeared the club had garnered just about all the bonus points it could for such things as an information table, visits by elected officials, news coverage, an educational program, etc. Logged operating points, while not overwhelming, were being calculated. Eyeball QSOs, while not eligible for the competition, were considerable.



40 meters is attacked at Field Day by Dave Peters, KB9EWG. He used a Slinky (shown in the background picture of antennas) for many of his contacts.

Calendar



Tue. July 1

→ Riverland Amateur Radio Club Picnic, 3:30 - 11 p.m., Shelter 4, Veteran's Memorial Park, West Salem. Grilled meat and beverages provided. Bring dish to pass.

Sat. July 12

→ Magic Yard Sale, St. Paul, Minn. www.magicrep eater.net/

Sun. July 20

→ Wisconsin Antique Radio Club www.warci.org/index.html free, 8 to 11 a.m., at The Terminal, 5917 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee.

Sun. Aug. 3

→ Cedar Valley ARC Hamfest, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. <http://cvarc.rf.org>

Tue. Aug. 5

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

Sat. Aug. 9

→ Riverland Amateur Radio Club Swap Fest, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska.

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club's

Swap Fest

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday August 9

Talk In: 146.97 PL 131.8
Admission: \$5
Tables: \$10

Vendors
Flea market
Buy - Sell - Trade
Tailgating
Refreshments
VE session 9 a.m.
Handicap access

Reserve your tables and your tickets
RARC
Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

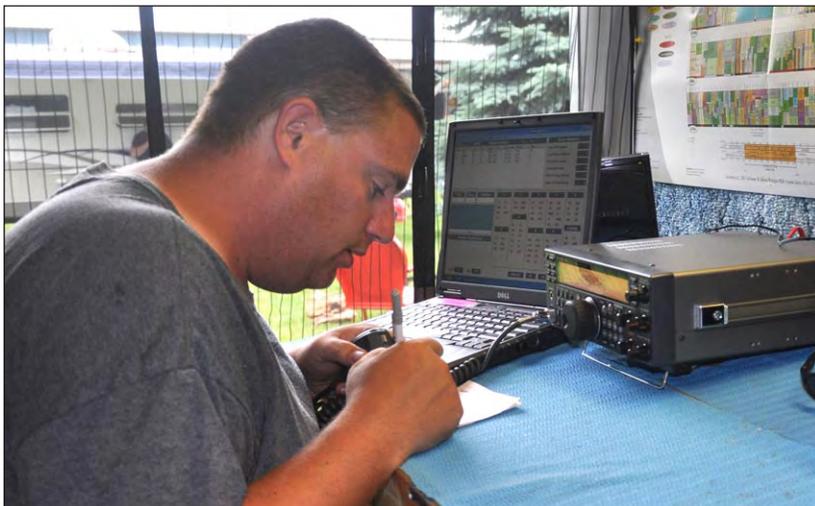
Door prizes

Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650
Refer questions to Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, 608-792-7841, gmliller@centurytel.net

VHF-UHF activity encouraged

Todd Sprinkmann, KC9BQA, reports he's made a number of updates to www.kc9bqa.com. The updates are all on the "front page." Sprinkmann's goal for the web site is to help get more VHF'ers on the air. "It's all about improving activity on VHF/UHF, as well as promoting contesting," he says.

Locally, Dave Huber, WV9E, encourages VHF use with an 8:30 p.m. Thursday night simplex net at 146.460. Details are on Huber's web site, www.wv9e.net/laxfmnet.htm



The 20-meter band is fodder for Kevin Holcomb's, KC9ZGD, Field Day contacts.

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

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

Communication 'fabric'

By Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE

Who hasn't searched for a 'hot spot' so we can connect our laptop or iPad to the internet? Most of us are familiar with our Field Day set up where Dan Abts, AB9TS, has set up a router and the logging computers can wirelessly communicate with each other. Each needs set-up and some configuring.

There is a way you could show up at Field Day, attach your computer to a router and have the router automatically connect with all the other routers! It's called "High Speed Multi Media MESH" HSMM MESH and it is exclusive to licensed Hams.

HSMM MESH is a high speed, self discovering, self configuring, fault tolerant, wireless computer network that can run for days from a fully charged car battery, or indefinitely with the addition of a modest solar array or other supplemental power source. The focus is on emergency communications.

In its current form it is built using the Linksys WRT54G/GL/GS wireless routers and operates on channels 1-6 of the 2.4GHz ISM band, which overlaps with the upper portion of the 13cm amateur radio band.

An article, "A Broadband Ham Network Crosses the Finish Line" in the July 2013 issue of QST, describes Texas Hams who used an HSMM MESH network to transport video from several locations on an extended marathon race course. They had video coverage of the entire course and 11 nodes with nine cameras covering the action. Other hams have used MESH nets to communicate large volumes of data at disaster or other public service events.

The recipe is remarkably simple: find a Linksys wireless router, follow the several easy steps online (www.broadbandhamnet.org/) to "reflash" it and there you are with your piece of a MESH! My router cost less than \$30 from eBay and with a bit of help from geeky buddies, got it going in about 15 minutes.

Armed with my Ham license I can add antennas with gain and amplifiers. My little Linksys and my net book can do simple chatting, voice over internet VOIP, or send or receive video from IP cameras in the MESH.

Hams in the U.S. Virgin Islands now have a MESH network primarily with VOIP for communications in hurricanes. Some Texas Hams called the Hambuds use N3FJP logging software and HSMM Mesh to connect the stations. They even sent small pictures back and forth from their operating positions.



Minds In Motion communications co-chairs Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD, left, and Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, give last-minute instructions to radio operators. (Left to right) Carl Thurston, KC9HDS, Roger Reader, KA9BKK, Art Osborn, W0JDC, Duwayne Cadmus, KD9AXP, Larry Worthington, KC9HDP and Dan Abts, AB9TS.

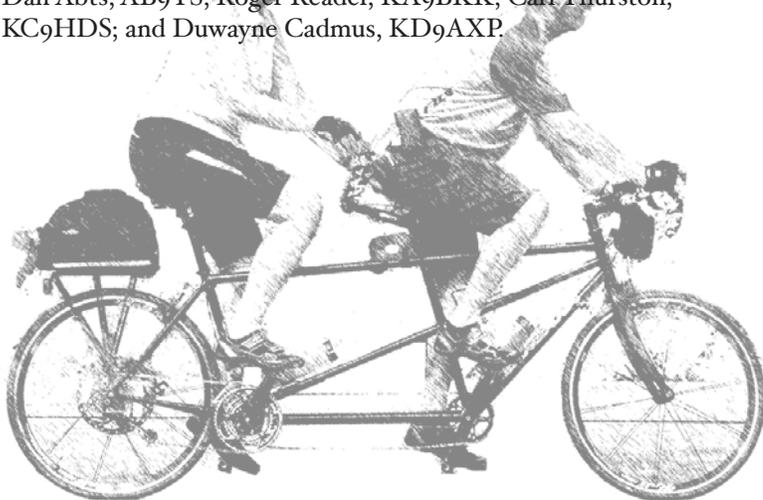
A decade's communication

June 14 was the 10th anniversary for Onalaska's Minds In Motion Bicycle Tour and for the 10th consecutive year, members of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club provided communications.

Minds In Motion is a fundraiser for schools in the Onalaska district with most of the money going to promote physical activities.

Club members were stationed from Onalaska to the far north eastern corner of La Crosse County. They provided information on rider progress to organizers and although it was not needed, checks on injuries. It appeared the most significant casualty was a flat tire.

Club members participating included: Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ; Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Larry Worthington, KC9HDP; Dave Peters, KB9EWG; Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE; Art Osborn, W0JDC; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Roger Reader, KA9BKK; Carl Thurston, KC9HDS; and Duwayne Cadmus, KD9AXP.



Attack of the garage

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

As I may have written before, when I retired, I created a bucket list of tasks that I intended to accomplish some time early in my retirement. Some might call it a honey do list but that would include many more things of lesser importance. No this is not a honey do list. This is an I'm tired of hearing about it list. All of you who have visited my QTH will know what a mess I have made in both my garage and my basement. My XYL has been very patient about it for too long of a time. Yes she has her not always so subtle ways of pointing out the advancing glacier of my stuff. I do feel badly about it, but it has become so difficult to manage that I have been hesitant to tackle it alone. Not even with a whip and a chair could one reasonably expect to tame that beast.

Recently, due to forces beyond his control, my younger son Matt came to stay with me while looking for a new apartment. This couldn't have happened at a better time as my XYL was in Scottsdale, Ariz. visiting her mother. She was gone for a week. That seemed to be enough time to make a real difference in my garage. Matt had little else to do so I enlisted his help in pursuit of the Gremlins that may inhabit the mess in my garage. As I

have previously said, this is not an easy task for one person to tackle, but two could have a modicum of success if they worked together carefully.

Many of the boxes have been stacked up for more than 20 years and as they have been inevitably piled haphazardly, with some heavier boxes on top that have been compressing lighter ones underneath. The result is that, over time, many of them have been shifting, and little by little have become potentially dangerous to anyone foolish enough to venture near them. As can be imagined, this could also result in an ambush by a nasty little opportunistic Gremlin. So between the tippy boxes, the threat of Gremlin attacks, and the fatigue that sets in after unstacking and re-stacking hoards of boxes, it makes for a tiring but fulfilling day when you look back at what you were able to accomplish.

We have managed to clean the shed behind the garage. This smaller one of 72 square feet, seemed like a fairly easy to deal with issue, but it took the better part of two days to clean it out, sweep it down, and rearrange everything in it. This was a good first move as several of the crates from the garage were stacked in there thus clearing some of the stuff

from the garage. The result of our labors was very neat and

satisfying. Plus it had the added advantage of setting the stage for the big job of cleaning and rearranging the

garage. Feeling good about what we accomplished in the shed, we went after the garage with gusto.

First let me say that there was such a disarray of half filled unmarked boxes that it took quite a bit of time to just sort out everything so that a more orderly arrangement could be established. Now I am able to find specific items with more certainty than ever before. There is one rack with items slated for sale on eBay, another rack with items needing repair, and one with miscellaneous pieces yet to be categorized and stowed. About half of the garage had been gone through before Matt had to leave to pack for a move to a new apartment. As a result, there still is much to be done out there, but real progress has been made and I pleased with the result so far. I still can not get a car in there, nor can I swing a cat, but I can get to nearly all of my shop equipment and safely make use of it. Once I get the remaining half of the garage sorted out and dispose of more stuff, I might be able to get one car in there.

One can only hope.

Meanwhile, I continue to pick away at it; making the space there ever more safe, useful, organized, and hopefully Gremlin free. Speaking of Gremlins; none were found in my garage, but it looks like several of those pests are now inhabiting my car. I might just have to forego more work on the garage until I can put the run on those nasty Gremlins once again.



Bob Wilson, N9LZK, left, and Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, check Field Day antennas.