

THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club



The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. The club is active in community service as well as actively promoting Amateur Radio in the Coulee Region. The Club is open to all who are interested in Amateur Radio and will help unlicensed persons become licenses thru the FCC.

RASPBERRY PI/ARDUINO

**Riverland
Amateur Radio
Club**
P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, WI.
54636

Repeater
146.970 PL 131.8

RARC Net
8:00 PM Sunday
night on the
146.970 Repeater

Club Meetings
Trustee Meeting
3rd Monday of the
month at King
Street Kitchen at
5:00 PM, all club
members are
welcome.

Program evening is
1st Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 PM,
Gunderson Clinic
conference room 1
in the lower level.



In Bill Woods normal style he came prepared to educate the club attendees on the Arduino and Raspberry Pi at our program night on June 5. He had video to show along with books and other hand-outs. The room was silent as he explained both so it was obvious he peaked the interest of the group. He left us with many resources on the subject for us to continue the study of this. Thank You Bill for an interesting subject for further study.



**MORE FIELD
DAY PICTURES
ON PAGE 6**





Wow, what a busy month June was. Starting with the club program night to the club picnic and then Field Day. The only thing missing in June was the Executive Meeting, because of that there will be no meeting minutes in this newsletter. At the program night I really enjoyed learning about the Arduino and the Raspberry Pi. Until then I had no idea what either of them were. Now that I know something about it thanks to Bill, ke9xq, I think I will purchase some books on it and continue to learn more on them. Then the club picnic. We haven't had a picnic as a group for a while so I think we were all looking forward to it. Carl, kc9hds, put a lot of effort into it so all would have fun. Besides the steaks and other picnic food it was an all day radio event as we set up the antenna and made some contacts. Then it was on to Field Day. So you can see the club was a flurry of activity in June and it would appear that July and August will be just as busy starting with a boat ride provided by Dan, ab9ts. I am sure some radio activity will happen then too.

As you know this club continues not just because of a few people but because of many. Especially when it comes to the Sunday Night Net. We have a group of people that reliably work the airways to keep it going. Some seasoned veterans and some are fairly new hams. I have listened to some of you grow with the net and continue to improve on your operating skills. Because of your dedication to the net I wanted to say Thank You to each of you.

Art Osbourn, w0jdc
 Mark Cassellius, kb9ofk
 Carl Thurston, kc9hds
 Kevin Holcolm, kc9zgd
 Rick Kolter, kd9gvs
 David Rusher, kd9epn

And to all that check into the net either regularly or occasionally.



July Schedule

- July 1...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Greg, k9lec.
- July 1...Program night, Boat ride on Dan, ab9ts' pontoon boat.
- July 8...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Dave, kd9epn.
- July 15...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, kb9ofk.
- July 16...Trustee Meeting at King Street Kitchen, club members are welcome.
- July 22...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Carl, kc9hds.
- July 29...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, kc9gvs.
- Aug 4...RARC Swap Fest at the Onalaska Omni Center.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

President.....Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD
 Vice-President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS
 Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS
 Treasurer.....Greg Miller, K9LEC
 Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS
 Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK
 Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ
 Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC

The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. Address any correspondence to: Greg Miller at k9lec@arrl.net.

Visit our website at rarc.qth.com



Testing for new Ham's or upgrades for 2017 will be on the following dates:

August 4 (RARC Swapfest)
 November 10

Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurtytel.net.



RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SWAP FEST

AUGUST 4, 2018

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM



Located in the Onalaska Omni Center
 255 Riders Club Rd. Onalaska, WI 54650

Talk in: 146.970 PL 131.8

- Door Prizes
- Vendors
- Flea Market
- Buy—Sell—Trade
- Tailgating
- Food Vendor
- Handicap Accessible
- ARRL Award Card Checks:
- DXCC, VUCC, WAC, WAS, 160m



VE Test Session at 9:00 AM

Prelude to Field Day

by Carl Thurston, kc9hds

This year's annual RARC picnic went fairly well. Nearly all of the objectives of it were achieved. In spite of the late afternoon shower, we were warm and dry in the shelter house. It was planned as a preview of our Field Day effort for 2018. With that in mind, Greg K9LEC brought the RARC trailer to Thomas G. Rowe Park shelter house #2 at 1000 Saturday June 9th so that everything could be set up in preparation for the picnic. The idea was that a HF station was to be set up so that those Hams who might not normally have access to an HF rig could come to this event and have an opportunity to get on the air. It was a good thing that Greg and I were there that early as it took a while for us to set up the trailer, antennas, power supply and the club's Kenwood HF rig. I say that it was a good thing that we started so early (the picnic was scheduled loosely for between 1600 and 2100) so our being there at 1000 might have been a bit early, but since we were involved in the initial set up of the needed equipment for the picnic, it wasn't too early as we ran into difficulties that were a bit taxing.

Things went fairly well to start with: The trailer was put into position in front and a bit to one side of the shelter house. Next we set up the club's Hustler vertical antenna, something that neither of us were really familiar with, but it went together fairly well. After that the power supply, Kenwood HF rig and an end fed wire antenna were set up. The tables were set up in a suitable way that allowed easy access to the AC power source in the shelter as well as ready accommodation for the complete set up of the radio equipment. Added to that, the grill, coolers, and dinner utensils were set out in a most useful array and all of the doors and windows of the shelter were opened and made ready for the arrival of the club members. The club banner was posted on the front of the shelter so that all would know what was going on there. When that was done, Greg set to work trying to get the Kenwood on the air. At first, the power supply wouldn't turn on, but after a bit of tinkering it came to life. Since neither of us had ever used the Kenwood before, we both being Yaesu people, there was a time of familiarization that needed to take place before we could get on the air. Although the controls were fairly straight forward, they were not easily understood for a bit. Once we got the idea how that rig worked we were again frustrated by several things needed to successfully get on the air with it.

We went over the manual step by step, but without success. It appeared that the SWR was too great for the tuner in the Kenwood, but when we used an antenna analyzer the SWR seemed to be in the useable range. No matter what we tried, we were unsuccessful. I always thought that Kenwood HF rigs were easy to use. Much easier in fact than the much more complex Yaesu models that we were familiar with. But that might have added to our downfall as we were obviously over thinking this problem. We were finally rescued from this dilemma when Roger KA9BKK and Tom WB9BJQ arrived, both of which were very familiar with Kenwood HF radios. At first, they too were puzzled by the situation. The coax, the antenna, and the radio were OK, but continued to be baffled for a bit. Then Roger discovered that the power supply was not set right. It's an Astro linear power supply with Amp and Voltage meters and knobs to adjust both. It was here that the solution was found, as the current level and voltage levels set way too low to do much good. Since none of us possessed power supplies with adjustable current and voltage, that had been overlooked.

Finally up and running. It was time to get the grill going and cook the steaks as by this time the rest of the members and their spouses had arrived and were ready to eat. The rest of the picnic proceeded as planned and a good time was had by all. The turn out was a bit slim as the weather wasn't optimal, as a thunder storm rolled in as we were about to have dinner, but we were snug and protected in the shelter. It continued to rain off and on for the rest of the event. It ended at 1800 when everything was cleaned up, stowed and the shelter locked. Field Day should be easier because of this event. See you then.

Field Day Finale...by Carl, KC9HDS

Well it has come and gone. Field Day that is. All of the planning and work by so many Hams has seen a fine result. Leading up to this annual event there was much discussion about how it should be organized, who should organize it, and where it was to be held. The where was fairly easy, well sort of, it was decided early on to have it at the Jostad farm North of West Salem, WI. This location has traditionally been the preferred site for most of the last 50 years. For those of you who are unfamiliar with that location, it is the site of the old original WHLA FM station and studio that had been abandoned many years ago and allowed to revert to the Jostads as it is located on their farm. The history of the place is rich with many fond memories by the Jostad family and a lot of Hams who have had a long time attachment with the site and its relevance to radio history in general and Amateur Radio in particular.

When it was an active FM station in the Wisconsin Public Radio network, it featured a number of local individuals who made it happen and kept it running for many years. The Station Engineer most often remembered was Charles Ferries. The Jostad family had a special liking for him as he was an inspiration to them and all who knew him. He was a very talented and well educated man who in spite of him being crippled was able to make his way around the station and studio by the use of hand holds and grab irons that he had installed in and around the building. His handicap didn't affect his ability to successfully run that station and his out going personality endeared him to all who met him. Because of the bond established between him and the Jostad family, the Jostads, especially Paul Jostad, wanted to continue his memory by encouraging the Riverland Amateur Radio Clubs' use of the old WHLA site for its Field Day events.

This year was to be no exception. But it was a bit of a shock when Paul Jostad died. The club mourned his passing and got together to sign and send a card and a memorial to his widow. Before she even got that card, she informed the club that in spite of Paul's passing, we were welcome to continue to use the WHLA site for our Field Day events. That pretty much settled the "where" part of the plan for the event.

Over the years that the RARC has held Field Day there, it has most often been a tumultuous time as because of the high elevation of the Jostad farm, there is usually storms and strong winds that accompany Field Day. Despite the possibility of adverse weather, it is a good site both because of the Jostad's continued granting of our use of it. Because of its elevation, lack of any unwanted RF interference it is a near perfect location for transmitting and receiving RF signals for radio and TV and especially on the Amateur Radio Bands.

This year, was an exceptional year because the weather was perfect. The temperature hovered in the mid 70s, the winds were little more than pleasant breezes and the Bands were fairly active in spite of the less than optimal Sun Spot Cycle. It would be nice to think that Paul Jostad had some thing to do with it from his heavenly perch.

Any way, the turn out for the event was good, so was the food which was more than ample and delicious. Several Hams were able to operate, a couple of which worked nearly all of the way through the night with a result of 224 QSOs. A local TV station came out and interviewed us and did a nice report on the evening news. Several guests came to participate in a meet and greet with the club members there. It is safe to say that a good time was had by all. Thanks to the hard work of the club members who made it all possible, it was the best Field Day ever. 73 and thanks for listening!



