

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

Curmudgeons Anonymous	1
President's Comments	2
Swapfest Flyer	3
Events & Buy, Sell, Trade,	4
Hams in the Park	5
Club Info	6

## CURMUDGEONS ANONYMOUS...

It seems to me that there is considerable room for those individuals who might fall into the category of "Curmudgeon." I'm not talking about your average misanthrope, but rather the hard core ones who are so steeped in their own unique form of disagreeable behavior that they can hardly stand themselves.

I'm sure that if you think about it you can come up with at least one or two curmudgeons that you have known over the years. These individuals may not even know that they are curmudgeons. They might even think that they are just normal people with a bit of an edge on their personality. Often they may think of themselves as rugged individuals, but are they? Or are they something more?

Some times they are so irascible that no one can even talk to them without fomenting a rather disagreeable discussion that devolves into an argument that can be rather heated. If you find yourself confronted by such an individual, the best thing to do is make light of it and move on. That is if they let you move on. Sometimes they insist on hanging on to you, bending your ear with all sorts of ridiculous opinions or ideas of little merit.

It might be best to humor them and regard them as merely amusing in a sad sort of way. It seldom pays to give them more than a passing thought, if you can.

Continued on page 4

## UPCOMING Events for July 2023

- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **July 8...** Club Picnic / Fox Hunt, Rowe Park Shelter 2, Onalaska
- ♦ **July 17...** Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable. All members are welcome to attend.
- ♦ **July 15...** Hams in the Park, Goose Island

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

July 2, 2023  
July 9, 2023  
July 16, 2023  
July 23, 2023  
July 30, 2023

Shawn kd9kgq  
Mark kb9ofk  
David kd9epn  
Rick kd9gvs  
Wayne k0wlo

## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello, RARC Members and Friends!

If anybody reading this column did not see the email that I sent a week or so ago, ***we will not hold our usual program meeting on the first Tuesday in July.*** We have other July activities that I'll describe in this column.

We've just finished a successful Field Day as I'm writing this column. We enjoyed a new location, we exceeded our average number of contacts with a total somewhere around the 400 mark (I don't have the final count yet), and everybody went home safely. Thank you to everybody who participated and pitched in. Your efforts made a difference.

It was good to see the people who joined us at the park. We filled up the entire page with names on the visitor's log.

Speaking of the park...

We have a few upcoming events at parks. We'll have our club picnic at shelter number two at Rowe Park in Onalaska on July 8. Come a little early. We'll be talking Fox Hunt at about 10. Fox hunt is an activity that is fairly new to much of our membership, so there will be a good chance to get some exposure to what can be a fun and challenging activity. Bragging rights are there to be had...

The following week will be our third Hams in the Park meeting. We'll be at Goose Island on July 15 with a focus on RTTY. The RTTY version of the NAQP (North American QSO Party) will happen that weekend. We hope to make it an educational experience for folks who would like to learn about the venerable digital mode and get some hands-on. The contest begins at 1 PM local time, but I'll probably try to get there somewhere around 10 AM. We don't have a specific spot in mind, but there are a few open areas to the North of the entrance road. We should be able to find a place to set up an antenna and station. Of course, anybody who wants to come out without the RTTY focus will be welcome to join us, too.

Ham radio can be a fulfilling individual pursuit, but it can be more rewarding with folks you can share it with. Club members are good for that. They understand the challenges and rewards that come with radio activity, can celebrate successes and help with encouragement and suggestions when the challenges start stacking up. That's the big plus that is part of membership and participation in your local club.

Tnx es 73,

Drew Neve

AB9NE







# RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## SWAPFEST

AUGUST 5, 2023

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Located at Bethany Church La Crosse

3936 County Rd B, La Crosse, WI 54601

Talk in: 146.970 PL 131.8

Door Prizes  
Flea Market  
Buy—Sell—Trade  
Tailgating Locations Available  
Food Vendor  
Handicap Accessible



**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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

For further info call Scott Cross at 319 432 1070 or email kb3mkd@arrrl.net

## Curmudgeons Anonymous (Continued)

A real hard core curmudgeon can be so hard to deal with that none of the above suggestions will work. If that is the case it might be best to excuse yourself by saying that "Oh look at the time! I'm late for an appointment! Please excuse me..." This tactic may not work with a really tough curmudgeon as they might just follow you to see who you are meeting with.

A lot of curmudgeons don't even know that they are being one. They might think that they are just being cleaver and that you enjoy their company so much that you can't get enough of them. Such a curmudgeon may not be able to be dismissed so easily. If that is the case, all that I can say is good luck. Your only recourse at this point is to let your eyes glaze over and patiently wait for them to run out of steam. Sooner or later they will get bored with your lack of response and they will look for another victim. If that happens, consider yourself lucky and drift away, making a mental note to avoid that person in future.

There are some that you can't shed so easily. Especially those who fall into the "Gremlin" category. A Gremlin can be destructive to your equipment which makes it even harder to ignore them, as their mayhem must be dealt with if you want to get back on the air. This is the kind of situation that I find myself in occasionally. Those Hams who are familiar with me and my shack have seen the devastating results of such an encounter. For years, I have been plagued with a persistent series of attacks by them and I can tell you that it wasn't fun trying to eradicate their impact on my equipment. Some have observed that most of my difficulties were unwittingly self imposed, but those of that opinion don't understand how or why these creatures are so interested in my discomfort.

Anyway, if you find yourself plagued with either of these types, you have my complete understanding and sympathy. All that I can say is that it is better that it is you who are so inflicted and not me. I'm hopeful that Field Day will be free of all such maladies. Perhaps peace and good will will reign for that weekend. In the meantime, 73 and remember to keep the communications bands open and friendly.

73 Carl

KC9HDS



- *Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net*
- *Include "The Key" in the subject line*
- *Please send some classifieds*
- *We need some classifieds*
- *We also accept article submissions.*

---

**BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO**

---



# HAMS in the Park

We've had a new activity this year. We've met twice for "Hams in the Park".

The first meeting was at Hass Park in La Crosse, the second meeting was at Glen Fox Park in Onalaska, and the third meeting is scheduled for July 15 at Goose Island.

The activity has already paid off for us in light of the new Field Day location we used this year. Meeting at Hass Park showed us that it would not make a suitable place for Field Day because of the lack of bathroom and the difficult access for our wheelchair-bound members. We were able to make use of activity to do a number of things, though. Some of our members who participated got on the air and were able to put some DX in the log, others were active on the VHF bands. We were also able to use the time to finish the adjustments needed on the 20/75 meter antenna that we used for Field Day. It was the antenna that David Peters (KB9EWG) used to successfully contact Australia, so something went right with it.

The second meeting happened early in June. We did it at Glen Fox Park in Onalaska. We identified a magical vertical antenna that resonated on every band without traps or making any adjustments. It was a fairly short session, and I feel bad because Charlie (KD9HSI) brought lunch to share, but I couldn't stick around to share it with him. It was good to have the session to validate Glen Fox Park as one that could be a good Field Day site for us, though.

Hams in the Park is a great, relaxed atmosphere to get help with things that are giving you challenges, too. If something is frustrating you and causing difficulty, bring it out. You may find somebody who can help. If you want to just come out and do some portable operating and socializing, this is the perfect venue.

There will be a new opportunity at the upcoming meeting on July 15. It will be at Goose Island. That is the day of the NAQP RTTY contest. We hope to use the opportunity to give people a chance to work some RTTY and get some exposure to a mode that may be a new one. Of course, you don't have to feel obliged to work RTTY if you don't want. You'll certainly be welcome to come out and participate in another way, or just to hang out, ask questions, and enjoy yourself.

Drew

AB9NE



## 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 consists 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
- \* 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 there 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 Crescent, 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 Monday of the month at Fork and Fable Restaurant, Jackson and 16th streets, La Crosse 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 Saturday's 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.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

Vice-President.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

Secretary.....Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

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

Trustee.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email...kb9ewg@gmail.com

Trustee.....Bill Wood KE9XQ Email...ke9xq@charter.net

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

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