

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.



Field Day beckons



Yes again it is time to pull everything together for our annual Field Day frolic. As you remember last year's event, it was without a doubt the best one that we have had in a long time. Yes, it was a bit out of the way being north of Holmen, yes there were pests present, both with and without wings, and yes, the terrain was a bit challenging, but the weather was good and the company was even better.

and a good turn out, we can again expect that a good time will be had by all.

I know, I know... the number of QSOs were down from previous years; that was partly due to atmospheric conditions and a greater interest by some of our operators in the snacks, beverages, and naps.

This is not to say that we didn't enjoy what we were able to accomplish. The intent of Field Day is to test the ability of Amateur Radio operators' ability set up and operate in a less than ideal environments. One of our members is known to say "all I need to do is set up, and make one QSO to prove my ability to operate under emergency conditions." True, but if that were all, we wouldn't need a whole day devoted to this event. There is more to Field Day: education of the public, meeting of old friends on and off the air, relaxation, and the enjoyment of food and beverages shared with friends.

In the final analysis, the number of attendees both active and passive that come to our Field Day is far more important than the number of QSOs. QSOs are important but when you are there with fellow Hams, the mirth and enjoyment that results is beyond anything else that could be accomplished. Thus Field Day is a fair day of good fare and good friends.

Dan Abts, AB9TS, and his wife, Shirley, KB9GKV, put together a very relaxed and refreshing atmosphere. Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, our host, made sure the facilities were the best. With those things in mind, I look forward to a repeat this year.

The way things were set up last year we attracted a number of our members who seldom make it to events, plus we attracted the general public due to our proximity to a large camp ground.

Since the location, chair, and host remain the same as last year, things should be even better. I've been told of several improvements. So with good weather



Calendar

Sat. June 1

→ Technician license class, 2121 Sims Pl., La Crosse. 608 792 9510.



Tue. June 4

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

Sat-Sun., June 8-9

→ June VHF Contest, www.arrl.org/june_vhf

Sat. June 15

→ Minds In Motion Bicycle Tour communication support, Onalaska Middle School, 711 Quincy St. Tom O'Brien, chair.
→ Kids Day, on air event to encourage young people licensed or not to have fun with Amateur Radio. www.arrl.org/kids_day

Sat-Sun. June 22-23

→ ARRL Field Day, W7755 A. Johnson Rd., Holmen.

Tue. July 2

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

Thur. July 4

→ Communication support for Chileda Run/Walk. Tom O'Brien, chair.

Sat. July 6,

→ South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, 6:30 a.m., American Legion Post #434, 9327 S. Shepard Ave, Oak Creek.

License classes offered

Amateur radio licensing classes in La Crosse will begin Sat. June 1. The first offered is for the Technician license.

The cost will be \$15 but \$10 will be refunded if participants pass the FCC test.

Sessions run from noon to 5 p.m. June 1, 8 and 15 at 2121 Sims Pl. behind Gundersen Health System.

Plans call for five minutes of CW each hour.

If there is demand, there will be General and Extra classes in the future.

For more information contact Bill Wood, KE9XQ, 608 792 9510

There should be two Tech manuals at the Onalaska Library, and one at the La Crosse Main branch.

Special Event opportunity

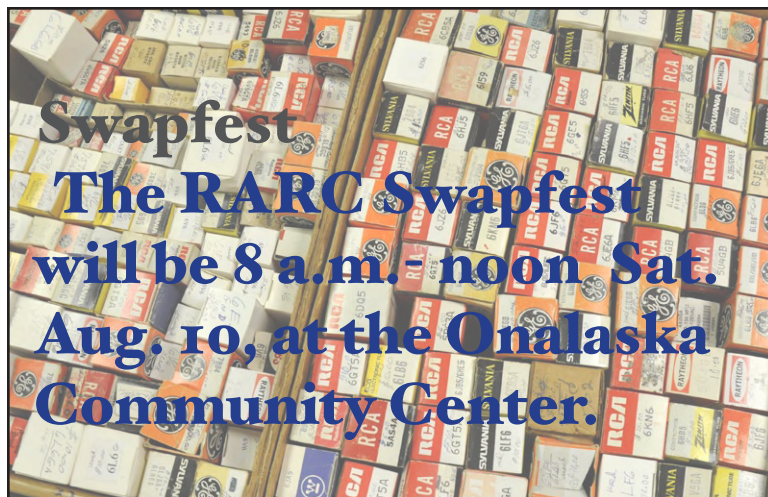
The world famous EAA AirVenture invites you to Oshkosh to see the greatest air show in the world free of charge plus participate in AirVenture's Special Event Station W9ZL.

The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club will operate a Special Event station from the grounds of AirVenture Wednesday through Sunday, July 31 through Aug. 4.

The operating event is open to all license classes.

If operators sign up for a four hour shift, they will be given a daily wristband that will allow them to go and wonder around EAA AirVenture.

For further information go to: <http://fcarc.us/?q=node/47> or contact Jon Oldenburg AB9AH, AB9AH@arrl.net, or 920 832 9727



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

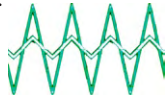
P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, Wis. 54650



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

President's Frequency



Modulation

By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ

We have been trying to get the word out that our Riverland Amateur Radio Club Swapfest will be held Sat. Aug. 10, at the Onalaska Community Center, 515 Quincy St. Times will be 8 a.m. – noon. We are still working out the details so watch the RARC Web site for more. The format will be similar to last year, free tables and free entry. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Door prizes are being worked on as well as a grand prize drawing at 11. More on that later.

Remember, to have a successful swap fest it takes tables and tables of good used equipment to sell. So if you can bring your unwanted items and swap or sell them it will help boost this activity.

It has been a very busy month around my house with my son and his family visiting from Tacoma, Wash. So my house has been filled with three little ones running around.

Let's see, where did I leave my HT? How did it get in the toy box? Why was it turned on? I hope it wasn't keying up the repeater.

I was sure I left my Yaesu on 20 meters.

Now what did I just step in? Now I wish I was wearing shoes. Well I will just wash it off and hope it was chocolate pudding.

What! There cousins are sleeping over!

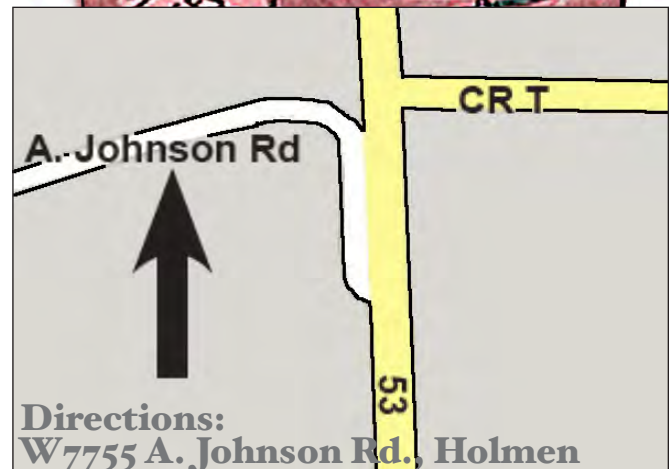
I hear my desk mic being used to alert Mars that the space craft "USS Grandpa" will be arriving soon and to be sure your leader has Twinkies and ice cream ready.

Well that's it for this month, my wife has just informed me I have to run to the store for ice cream and Twinkies.

73

KA9FOZ

RARC's Field Day



Proceed north from Holmen on US 53 past Drugan's Castle Mound Country Club. Immediately past Whispering Pines Campground turn left on to A. Johnson Rd. Country road "T" is on the east side of US 53. Greg Miller's home is the second house on the left.

Four pound Field Day

There's the kind of Field Day we do with tons of tents, campers, radios, antennas, generators, golf carts and voluminous quantities of food. And there's the "Four Pound Field Day" done by a few operators like Wayne Burdick, N6KR.

Burdick, a QRPer and co founder of Elecraft, combines his radio adventures with outdoor adventures. The radio goes in the backpack as he heads into the woods.

This year he plans to break with tradition and keep his gear very light for field-day. "I'm going minimal....four

pounds max of radio gear," Burdick says. "This will allow me to put more emphasis on food, drink, and enjoying time with my nine year old son."

Burdick's four pounds allows for a KX3 with internal ATU and attached paddle; mic and headphones; external battery plus eight internal AA batteries in the rig; two



50' lengths of antenna wire, adapters, and a couple of 1 oz weights to get one wire into a tree; paper log and dupe sheets; soft carrying case.

"I still expect to be reasonably competitive in the 1B battery category even with this lightweight station. I hope to operate on 80 6 meters in CW, SSB, and

digital modes," he says.

Burdick likes paper logging but is considering iPhone logging.

Retired but not tired

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Well it has finally happened. The “Hapless Ham” is now retired. The ultimate meaning of that statement is yet to be realized. For many years now I have been musing about what it would be like to be retired. Everyone that I know who is retired says basically the same thing; “you’ll love it, there are six Saturdays and one Sunday every week!” or “you think that you can relax but you will find that you are busier than ever before!” or “after a while you will go back to work to get some rest!”

It has been a while now since my gainful employment. So far I have been occupied with dealing with all of the tasks that have lain fallow for so long. You might call it a “Honey do list” on steroids. Most of you have heard of the huge pile of stuff that occupies my garage, work shop, storage area, and shack. Most of that needs to move to some other location, and that is my goal at this time. Like a glacier it is very slow to move. It would be simple to put it all on eBay and be done with it, simple in theory, not simple in practice.

Like so many intricate assemblages, it must be taken apart carefully and in the right order or the whole thing will collapse on me and that could be fatal.

One must approach this task with great care and logical determination. It is not a task for the timid or the weak. It could be best accomplished with the aid of a second or third pair of hands, but the problem with that is there just isn’t enough room at this stage to accommodate more than one person at a time in these cramped confines.

As I mull over what to do first with the sludge in my storage areas, I find myself dealing with minor issues of clearing out the build up of old, outdated documents that seem to grow in the various corners and crevices in my QTH. As I deal with the shredding of that mess I dream of getting on the air and making a pile of QSOs, but alas, that seems to be too far down on the list.

I continue to pick away at the things that must be done, with the hope that at some point in the immediate future the list will come to an end or at least dwindle to manageable size.

This is not to say that I am not enjoying being retired. People ask me about how I like being retired and all that I can say is “what is there not to like about it?” Since my XYL still works, I have the days to myself. I find the time to help lift the burden of domestic



chores from my XYL’s usual routine by throwing in a load of laundry, making soup, and preparing the occasional dinner. My time is my own to some extent and I can arrange things to suit myself some of the time, but the responsibility of dealing with the mass of stuff that I have accumulated over the years weighs heavily on me.

I might even get things all organized and mostly completed before Field Day. That would be good. Then I could really sit back and enjoy being retired without being tired out.

Misinformation 2013

By Dennis Rybiecki, K9LGU/STM-WI

Miss Information 2013? No, it’s not the intellectual beauty pageant although I’ll bet it got your attention.

The topic of this month’s frequently asked question is, “what about misinformation when we’re handling traffic?”

If we are asked to serve as communicators in times of need, it is very, very easy for information to be misconstrued, misheard, misstated. Rumors can wrongly be stated as facts. When huge amounts of data are required, it’s easy for wrong information to slip in. In a widespread disaster, everything is affected. Decision makers need to know

what roads are out, what vital services are destroyed, which ones can be easily repaired, and which ones are functioning. They need to know where to find the greatest number of casualties and evacuees and where they might keep them safe. They’ll need information on every aspect of business, government, and homes immediately. They won’t get all the facts they need.

We probably can’t avoid all mistakes in our communications, but there are some things we can do to make those mistakes less frequent. We can take special care to get each message exactly right

when it’s composed, sent, received, and delivered. We can secure a specific signature for authorization. We can anticipate and verify what the addressee may need. We can confirm what we have heard or read and pass it on in the same words. If we suspect there’s incorrect information, we don’t change the text

but we can include an operator’s note to clarify. We can use phonetic spelling and ask for fills until we are certain. And, of course, we can continue to train, to learn, to practice, so that when we need to do what we do best we can do it best.