

THE KEY



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

Field Day '14

Field Day is supposed to be a test of Amateur Radio operating in emergency communication conditions. Everyone who has participated once knows it is much, much more. Field Day is, of course, radio operating and the Riverland Amateur Radio Club will operate. Members and friends will, as event Chair Dan Abts, AB9TS, says, “meet, eat, drink, camp, operate, or any combination of the above.

The club will operate at a field adjacent to Miller’s home, W7755 A. Johnson Rd., Holmen. See map, page

All Riverland Amateur Radio Club members are invited to participate. It is a wonderful chance to see how others operate and to simply get on the air and make some contacts.

RARC is a “3A” operation. That means we will have three transmitters running simultaneously at any given time using the call “WR9ARC.” There will be a variety of setups ranging from the club’s Kenwood 590 in the club trailer to Art Osborn’s Icom 706, in his car, tied to a long wire antenna.

The three official stations and the GOTA station will be assigned logging computers, frequencies and modes.

Every effort will be made to assure that those who want to make contacts will have a spot. Probably won’t go hungry either.

Throughout the event expect non Ham visitors so plan to dress neatly and try to simply explain what you are doing.

Having visits from public officials, your neat clothing and a greeter not only help us earn bonus points, they also are to recruit new members and positively influence decision makers.

On Saturday, you should prepare for the upcoming contest by “reserving” a frequency. Find an open frequency 10 to 20 minutes before the start of the contest and call CQ and if

possible start a QSO to occupy the frequency. Then as the contest starts, you can sign off from the QSO and start calling CQ Field Day.

Field Day is an event that is best when it is shared with as many people as possible that’s why we have a big Field Day after all. Plan to operate even if it is only briefly!

If you bring your own equipment and the club hopes you will be sure to check in with Field Day chair Dan Abts. He coordinates where things go, where logging computers go and where antennas will best co exist.

Consider bringing shelter. Conditions can be quite variable. It can be cold, hot, sunny, cloudy, windy, or still, sometimes all

within a couple of hours. Your shelter should be able to accommodate all of that.

The last thing, though possibly the most important, is to consider bringing spares. Spare rope, coax, and backup dipole antenna are all reasonable items. A spare rig if you are more aggressive. You will have to make up a list that you are comfortable with.



Repeater

146.970 PL 131.8



RARC Net

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



Programs

Tuesday, June 3, “Field Day” and “making a new antenna trailer”

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.



Calendar

Sunday, June 1

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

→ Starved Rock Radio Club's W9MKS 2014 Hamfest, Princeton, Ill. www.w9mks.org

Tue. June 3

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

Sat. June 14

→ Minds In Motion Bicycle Tour communication support, Onalaska Middle School, 711 Quincy St. Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZDG, 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 14-16

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

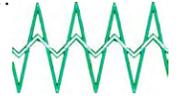
Sat-Sun. June 21-22

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



President's Frequency Modulation

By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ



Field Day 2013, a year ago memory now. I remember it well as I had very little to do with it. I was so busy with an estate sale at my mothers' house as well as a truck problem that kept me busy. As I was trying to run between all three activities that weekend I never really got to enjoy Field Day, make contacts or visit with everyone that attended. Heck, I didn't even see everyone that was at the site.

I felt bad about that but time has passed and we now are four weeks from Field Day 2014. Things will be different this year: my focus will be entirely on this year's event.

We will finalize all the details at our club meeting June 6. I hope you can make it and give your input. We will have Field Day at my QTH and I am looking forward to adding a campfire. Any bets it rains? Well we will have plenty of shelter if it does.

An important discussion at the June meeting will be the addition of a tower to the existing trailer. We need all of your input on this before the final decision is made on the type of construction to use. Some good designs have been discussed and we need to move forward with one of them.

Remember our July meeting to be held at Veterans Memorial Park, West Salem, July 1. We will have a picnic in place of the normal meeting so it will pretty much be a social event. These are always fun and you can bet on some surprises. Plan to attend.

I want to mention the club membership is up slightly over last year but still down from previous years. If any members know of a Ham looking for a club bring them in to look us over. Clubs are made up of members and the more the better.



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.

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, gmillar@centurytel.net

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
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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

Field Day

Who: Riverland Amateur Radio Club
What: ARRL Field Day
Where: W7755 A. Johnson Rd., Holmen
When: Sat. & Sun., June 28-29
Why: Test emergency communication ability

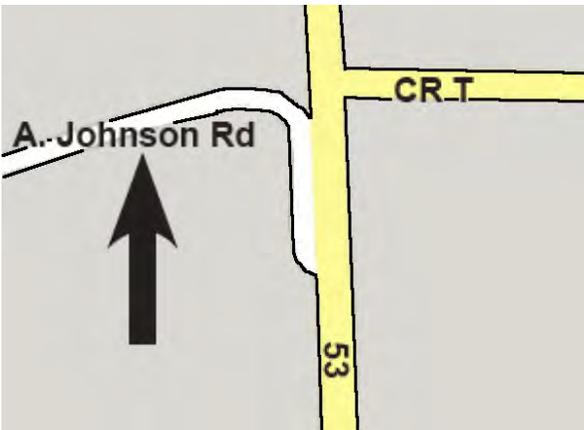


How to operate

For Field Day, the objective is to make as many contacts as possible. To make those contacts valid, you have to exchange a certain amount of information.

A Field Day contact sounds like this:
 CQ Field Day CQ Field Day this is WR9ARC Whiskey Romeo Nine Alpha Radio Charlie calling CQ Field Day and listening.

Whiskey One Alfa Whiskey. W1AW thank you, we are Three Alfa, Wisconsin, over. Thank you, we are 6 Delta, Connecticut, over. Thank you, this is Whiskey Romeo Nine Alpha Radio Charlie, QRZ? All that is left is to log the contact and go for the next station.



Directions:

W7755 A. Johnson Rd., Holmen
 Proceed north from Holmen on US 53 past Drugan's Castle Mound Country Club. Immediately north of Whispering Pines Camp ground 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.



How do you look to the general public?

There's a good chance there will be visitors to Field Day there's even a chance of a cute, little, blond TV reporter! – so will you interest them in Ham radio or confirm their worst fears about Geeks?

One aspect of Field Day is selling our hobby and the first thing a good salesperson does is clean up and dress neatly.

Here some tips for your sales presentation:

Always be neatly dressed and well groomed. Jeans, clean T shirts or sport shirt are great.

Greet visitors and be a "host." If you're not really comfortable find someone who can, and will, host visitors. Do not leave people hanging. See that our operating area is neat and clean and people are respectful, even cheerful.

Thank visitors for coming and invite them to our next gathering.

Explain what you are doing in plain language so that everyone can understand you. There is no room for "hamspeak."

Whatever it takes to get the message through, we Hams can do it. That is the underlying message of Field Day and should never be far from one's mind when discussing it with a reporter.

- A - Alfa
- B - Bravo
- C - Charlie
- D - Delta
- E - Echo
- F - Foxtrot
- G - Golf
- H - Hotel
- I - India
- J - Juliet
- K - Kilo
- L - Lima
- M - Mike
- N - November
- O - Oscar
- P - Papa
- Q - Quebec
- R - Romeo
- S - Sierra
- T - Tango
- U - Uniform
- V - Victor
- W - Whiskey
- X - X-Ray
- Y - Yankee
- Z - Zulu

Why didn't you use a gin pole?

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

There are times when the solution is so obvious that it isn't even considered. This was the case with a project that I had been working on off and on since late last fall. For some time the 10 foot 4 x 4 post that the anchor point for the northern leg of my Mystery Antenna is attached to has been leaning more and more to the southwest.

This was due, in part, to the fact that the this post had a slight bend to it before it was even put into the ground. To be specific, it was set in concrete to a depth of about two feet, thus having approximately eight feet of it above ground. The reason for setting this pole was two fold: for the anchor point, and as an attachment point for a run line for my active and eager beagle, Charlie's, run line. When I put this pole in place I didn't think that there would be a problem, but as time wore on, that post was being bent more and more by Charlie.

For sometime I considered various ways and means for correcting this situation, but since it continued to serve the purpose, I acquiesced, since there were other more pressing projects around my QTH. Also, I must point out, I am an inveterate procrastinator as everyone who has seen the contents of my garage will attest. Added to this mix are the ever present Gremlins that are always lurking in the shadows, just waiting for a chance to make my life

miserable. That is a never ending story in itself. Back to the post. I had been toying with various solutions to that deteriorating post when a neighbor of mine offered a Martin house to me.

I will admit my taking on this additional project is somewhat out of character for me, but I like the design of the 22 apartment bird house and the realization that it would require a rather tall pole for it to be mounted on. A pole that could replace the sagging one that stood in the corner of my yard. Well, after painting the Martin house, no small task, I procured a 16 foot treated 4 x 4, which I also painted, then, suddenly it was winter. The completion of this project was put on hold for better weather: i.e.; spring or a time with warm enough weather to go back at this job. This was a good thing; it enabled me the time needed for my feeble brain to work out all of the details for the successful completion of this project, whose immensity I was only then beginning to understand. The sheer engineering logistics of erecting a 16 foot 4 x 4 has its own issues, but when you add to it a 50 pound Martin house at its peak, then things get real interesting.

Attaching the bird house to the end of the pole was fairly straight forward: four stout strutted steel shelf brackets fastened to the base of the house with eight bolts and to the pole with eight screws and four lag bolts, ensured that

the resulting connection was more than sufficient maintain a stable unit.

Next, with the help and advice of a lot of well meaning friends, I ignored all of their suggestions on how to attach this thing firmly to a base and proceeded to work with what I already had. Remember I already had a 4 x 4 pole secured in concrete in the desired location. Although it was bent, its sides were fairly straight, so I cut it off 2 feet above ground, lag bolted two 3 foot 2 x 6s which I had pre drilled to accommodate heavy threaded rods to secure the post to the resulting stump, assemble it laying across a saw horse, with the top rod in place as a pivot point, then all that was needed was to swing it up into place and put the remaining rod through the lower hole. It couldn't have been simpler. All that was lacking was the means to lift about 80 pounds of bird house and pole to a vertical secure it and done. My son and I through sheer brawn and little brains managed to horse it into place. When one of my learned colleagues heard this tale, he said "Why didn't you use a gin pole?" Why indeed.



Operating tip

Keep your BIC Butt In Chair) time maximized by creating a comfortable monitor viewing arrangement.

Since you will be spending a whole lot of time looking at them, whether you are a contender or not, their selection and placement is important.

Dual monitors are recommended.

- Small bezels mean less distraction when moving the cursor from screen to screen.

To avoid head and neck stress, video monitors must be viewed downward at a slight angle.

Square inches of display area is a better metric than diagonal size and the wide-aspect format supports more windows.

May 6 meeting attendance

Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Van Elston, WA9FIO; Dan Helgeson; Larry Worthington, KC9HDP; David Peters, KB9EWG; Mark Casellius; KB9OFK; Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Wilson, N9LZK; Gary Webb, NI9V; Bill Wood, KE9XQ; R.B. Boomer, WF9T; Art Osborn, W0JDC; Carl Thurston, KC9HDS.