

THE KEY



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

Riverland
Amateur
Radio Club

P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, Wis. 54650

Repeater
146.970 PL 131.8

RARC Net
8 p.m. Sundays on
the 146.970 re
peater.

Club meetings
7 p.m., Tuesday,
meeting room
r, lower level,
Gundersen/Lu
theran La Crosse.
Elmer session 6
p.m.

RARC Web page
<http://rarc.qth.com/>

Field Day beckons



Participate.

See how others operate and to simply get on the air and make contacts.

Sightsee

Look for different rigs, antennas, power supplies and other gear

Bring your own

Be sure Field Day chair AB9TS coordinates where you put your things

Eat

Check out the chow line. You won't go hungry

Dress nicely

There will be visitors so let them see we are "professional" amateurs

Bring shelter

Conditions can be quite variable. And buggy!

Bring spares

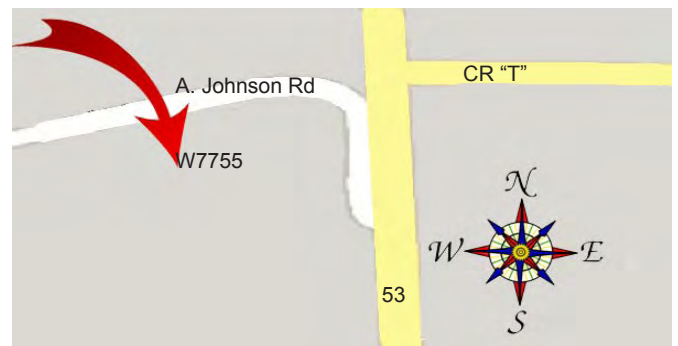
This is an exercise in emergency preparedness. Be prepared



ARRL Field day is fast approaching. For many amateurs, this event has provided some of their best Ham Radio Memories. Why not get involved in helping out in planned field day activities. It's called an 'operating event,' and while plenty of clubs treat it as they would any other contest the Riverland Amateur Radio Club makes it a wonderful social outing.

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 Sat-Sun, June 27-28, at a field adjacent to Greg Miller's. KA9FOZ, home, W7755 A. Johnson Rd., Holmen. See map



President's Frequency Modulation

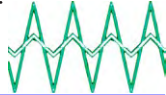
By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ

Well my radio has its wheels back. As you may remember from last month my truck lost a wheel bearing and had a few other issues so extensive work was needed. After having to machine some parts and installing others my 2 meter radio is again on the road. While the truck lay in the hospital I had the opportunity to read a very interesting article on proper operating procedures. It touched on 2 meter repeater operations and that made me think about our 97 repeater and how often it gets used. On the RARC Sunday night net we have been having consistently 15 to 18 check ins, what I would consider a very good group. That made me wonder why throughout the week the repeater is close to silent. I know that people's time schedules from work and other activities vary a lot but with the quantity of 2-meter operators in the area you would think the repeater would be more used. So the question is how can we increase 2-meter interest and participation?

Here is where I would like to put out a suggestion for all the 2 meter operators and especially new hams. Beside the Sunday night net pick one or maybe two other nights and challenge yourself to call out on the 97 and make a contact. I would recommend in the evening, say after 5 p.m. Imagine if 17 operators did this how busy the repeater would be! This would also help the newcomers get more experience and become old timers like me. Just a suggestion that I am going to try.

One thing all licensed Amateur Radio Operators need to remember is we all are different, whether it be young, old, race, religion, politics or whatever. Even if we follow proper operating procedures we may come across to each other differently. It doesn't mean we did something wrong, it just means our personality is showing. And isn't that great? Just think if we all sounded the same, pretty boring I would think. This comment was spurred by a forum I was reading and the commentators were bashing each other and their styles. Each saying the other was wrong in how they operate. Neither group was wrong, just different. They all fell within the FCC rules for operating. True, some nets may request that you do certain things within the net and that is fine and a different issue.

Well, enough of that. Field Day is less than a month away so that will be a good time to hone your operating skills and to learn from some of the other hams. Bring your questions and problems so those who know the answers can share them.



Calendar

Sun. May 31

♦ Wisconsin Antique Radio Club Hamfest, The Terminal, 5917 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee.

Tue. June 2

♦ Riverland Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., meeting room 1, lower level, Gundersen/Lutheran La Crosse. Elmer session 6 p.m.

Sat-Sun. June 13-15

ARRL June VHF Contest, www.arrl.org/news/got-grids-arrl-june-vhf-contest-is-june-13-15

Sat. June 27

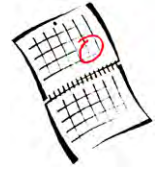
♦ ARRL Field Day, W7755 A. Johnson Rd., Holmen.

Sat. July 11

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

Sat. July 25

Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio RaDAR America Contest, 14:00 UTC - 18:00 UTC.



*The club's next license testing will be Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9 a.m. at the Church of Christ, 3506 28th St. South, La Crosse.
Those wishing to test must register at least five days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@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
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

Running for runners

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

May 2 was a spectacular day for the Festival Foods Grandad Half Marathon. There were sufficient marshals spaced out over the entire course, leaving little chance that anyone who needed help would be overlooked.

One or two runners experienced cramps or were a bit dehydrated, but all in all there was little for the marshals to deal with.

The event went very smoothly, so smoothly in fact that the county emergency coordinator had nothing but praise for the job done.

When the last runner was past my position, I headed to Riverside Park to help there. It was difficult to get there because of the bike race near the park. I had to sneak in through the International Garden at the park's north end in order to return to the command post where Keith Butler, KC9IWL,



and Holcomb were stationed. Dan Abts, AB9TS, had even more difficulty arriving.

AB9TS and myself helped dismantle the mobile medical tent. It was a major undertaking. In addition to us there

were six other volunteers that pitched in as well. It took nearly three hours to dismantle, pack, and stow this state of the art mobile medical shelter with its own 17KW generator for lighting and air conditioning. The furniture inside was comfortable and easy to break down and store but the tent was another story. It had a sophisticated aluminum framework that had to be carefully taken apart, bundled and stowed. All of the various sides, roof, and flooring were held together with Velcro and each panel had to be precisely folded and stored in specially carrying bags that, once filled, needed the assistance of Hercules to load them in the appropriate place in the accompanying trailer. The owner of this equipment said the entire ensemble cost in excess of \$30,000. That's a lot of pressure to deal with, but we did, and all went well.

Ham Radio: service or hobby?

By Bill Wood, KE9XQ

Is Ham Radio a service or a hobby? The answer is: YES!

We all know of emergencies that have happened where good hams have helped people in trouble. That extra blanket or letting mom know all is well is well worth your efforts. Technology has been changing over the years and some of our services are no longer needed, but there are still needs that can be filled when the opportunity arises. Being ready when the power goes out in only one aspect of the service, but a good one nevertheless.

Me, I'm more of a putzer. I've junked out so many computers that worked, TVs that had lots of potential left in them. AM/FM radios that were like new. While I have one of the largest junk boxes you can have, I do not build like I want to, so this year, I have made myself a goal, get on the air more often, start burning

up some of the ether, and start building more. I've built a few things over the years, one which I did for work was over my head, a constant current power supply. I can grasp the adjustment, the variable voltage aspect, but took a little while to understand the subject of constant current.

Switching power supplies are another idea that some say impossible for you and me to play with, but the handbook has given us some plans, and junking out 40 50 of them should help you get an idea of at least some of the whats and whyfores. Don't think I will ever master that subject, but no harm in at least putzing with the subject.

So, is Ham Radio a service or a hobby? Again, I say: YES!



Come on in!

Some people have a talent at being welcoming; it's the person who instantly makes you feel a part of the group.

Having someone make the effort in a group is important for success and enjoyment in Ham radio.

Training and mentoring has been around a long time. We call it "Elmering" when experienced Hams introduce someone new to what we do.

Professionals know that mentoring is critical to success. It is not enough to help a person pass their test then expect them to sink or swim. Very few of us took the solo route there was an Elmer or a peer group or a club to make us part of the Ham family.

The next time we're together, keep a eye for the person who wants to join in but needs an invitation or might be waiting for the right moment. Take the initiative and extend that invitation or make that moment. That's your job to expand the group. What have you got to lose? Nothing - you'll gain a friend and maybe launch a lifetime Ham.

Will we be able to hold on to our newest members? Not if they don't feel like part of the grand family of Hams! Without a personal connection, we will lose them forever. The most powerful words you may ever say to another ham are probably not technical advice or some secret operating tip, they are "Come on in!"



Our Field Day 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."

"Whiskey One Alfa Whiskey. Thank you, we are three Alfa, Wisconsin, over."

"Thank you, we are six 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.



www.arrl.org

2015 ARRL FIELD DAY

HAM RADIO

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

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.