

# 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., First  
Tuesday, meeting  
room 1, lower level,  
Gundersen/Lu  
theran La Crosse.  
**Elmer session** 6  
p.m.

## RARC Web page

<http://rarc.qth.com/>

## Facebook

Riverland Amateur  
Radio Club RARC



## Field Day 16

It's time for Ham radio's premier event, Field Day, June 24-26, an amateur's World Series, Olympics, State Fair and Woodstock. It's when Hams from around the world take their gear to the weeds for a test of an operator's communication skills and ability and flexibility in mounting an effort that would be encountered in a major disaster.

Everyone who has participated knows it is much, much more. Club members and friends will, as event Chair Dan Abts, AB9TS, says, "meet, eat, drink, camp, operate, or any combination of the above."

This year we're on the Jostad farm north of West Salem near the intersection of county roads M and S. See map

Significantly, we operate in and around the former WHLA FM transmitter site. All Riverland Amateur Radio Club members are invited to participate. It is a wonderful chance to

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

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

Expect non-Ham visitors so plan to dress neatly and try to simply explain what you are doing. The officials, your neat clothing and the greeter not only help us earn bonus points, they also are to recruit new members and positively influ

ence decision makers.

Setup begins about 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 24. Test stations to see if things work and if there is interference. Spend time operating.

Complete setup and testing stations about 9 a.m. Saturday. The contest runs from 1 p.m. Saturday to 1 p.m. Sunday.

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!



## Field Day site, N6421 Jostad Road, Holmen

Intersection of County Roads "S" and "M"

From West Salem, take CR M about 0.1 past intersection of CR S to Jostad Road. Turn right, go about 0.3 to building on right

From Onalaska, take CR S to CR M. Turn left (north) proceed about 0.1 to Jostad Road. Turn right, go about 0.3 to building on right

## Where have you been?

We've missed you and would love your continued involvement in the Riverland Club. Don't miss our active meetings, events and even this newsletter. Renew your (really inexpensive) membership now! There's a renewal form on page 5. You should be able to fill it out from your computer, print it and send it with your check to the RARC, Box 621, Onalaska, Wis. 54650.

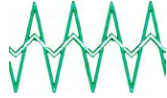
## President's Frequency Modulation

By Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD

I encourage newer hams to get involved and not be afraid of the radio. When I started out a few years ago, I never thought I would be able to run a net or do anything but participate in events. I jumped in, and with practice, I've now been net control on Sunday night nets and other event nets. It's not all that hard if you try something new. Even getting on the air was tough for me being not sure of myself and worried what others would think. I am sure everyone has struggled at first. I can say from experience that no one judges for we all make mistakes from time to time. Starting out on 70 cm and 2m is a great way to start especially using simplex rather than using the repeater. Get comfortable with that then HF becomes easier for a person. It all starts out with just getting on the air and pushing yourself.

Not only for new hams, but for experienced hams, I have to ask are you ready? Are you ready for an event and put your radio, skills, and license to the test? It's never planned, emergencies can happen at any time. It could be storm related or an industry in the area having a tragic event or train derailment. Are you able to communicate at a moment's notice? If all of a sudden all cell phones went out, how would you get through to your family and friends to let them know you are okay? Our little hobby known as Ham radio is looking more and more important isn't it? Having the radio is one thing, but having the power to use the radio is another. Having power, batteries, solar charging, fuel, or any other thing you can power your radio with and not just for a while but maybe for days. This is all something to consider.

And finally I would like to thank everyone who participates in the amateur radio events, giving of their time to help others and keeping their own skills sharpened. I am very happy with club officers Vice President Dan Abts, AB9TS, Treasurer Greg Miller, KA9FOZ, and Secretary Bob Seaquist, W9LSE for their hard work. This year has started out nicely and things seems to be going well. Our club is heading in the right direction. We have a few things to work on yet, but so far, we are on the right track. All of us should all be heading in the right direction by being ready for all that we are and can be capable of.



## Up next

✦ Wisconsin Antique Radio Club Swapfest, 7 to 11 a.m. The Terminal, 5917 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee. Radios, tubes, parts, books.

**Sat-Sun, June 11-13**

✦ ARRL June VHF Contest. [www.arrl.org/june\\_vhf](http://www.arrl.org/june_vhf)

**Fri-Sun, June 24-26**

✦ ARRL Field Day setup begins about 6:30 p.m Friday. Final preparations begin 9 a.m. Saturday. Field Day operating runs from 1 p.m. Saturday 1: p.m. Sunday, Jostad's, N6421 Jostad Road, Holmen

### Field Day goals

- ✓ Have good time with fellow Hams
- ✓ Learn new Ham practices
- ✓ Demonstrate Ham radio to others
- ✓ Communicate
- ✓ Score a few points



## History of Riverland's Field Day Site

WHLA is part of one of the oldest, if not the oldest, educational broadcast networks in the nation. The lead station. WHA in

Madison, was first licensed as 9XM and was one of the country's first radio stations.

WHLA brought educational radio now Public Radio to the La Crosse area in the late 1940s. It was the only FM broadcaster in the La Crosse area until the early 1970s.

## Riverland Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, Wis. 54650



President ..... Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD  
Vice president..... Dan Abts, AB9TS  
Treasurer..... Greg Miller, KA9FOZ  
Secretary..... Bob Seaquist, W9LSE  
Newsletter editor.. Bob Seaquist, W9LSE  
Address correspondence regarding the club to Greg Miller, [ka9foz@gmail.com](mailto:ka9foz@gmail.com). 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 [W9LSE@arrl.net](mailto:W9LSE@arrl.net)

## Proposal to change how the Riverland Amateur Radio Club conducts its business

In summary, club business would be conducted by its Executive Board at the Board's regular meetings. The Executive Board would be increased from the present four officers to four officers, the trustee and two members at large.

### ARTICLE III

#### Executive Board

SECTION 1 The Executive Board shall consist of seven members - six elected by the membership and the seventh being the Station Trustee, who is an ex officio voting member of the board. Executive Board members shall be elected by secret ballot at the December Annual Meeting. If there is no quorum, the Executive Board may appoint members to fill expired board positions. The Station Trustee shall be appointed or renewed by the Executive Board annually in January. Elected Executive Board members serve two year terms beginning January 1. The Station Trustee may continue in that position until he or she resigns or is removed by the Executive Board. All terms will be two year terms.

SECTION 2 The Executive Board shall select officers from amongst Executive Board members in January. The Station Trustee may not hold any other officer position on the board. The terms of officers shall be one year.

SECTION 3 The business of the club shall be managed by its Executive Board. Each board member shall discharge board duties in good faith and with the diligence and care which an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. The board shall have the power and authority to implement the purposes and goals of the club. These duties shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Performing all functions defined by other provisions of this Constitution or the By Laws or by the membership of this club;
2. Performing all functions required by law and not herein specifically as

signed to the members or officers;  
2b. Fulfilling other duties as appropriate: establish projects and budgets; evaluate the need for fund raising; authorize expenditures; plan with the Vice President club programs and locations; and discuss and prepare for presentation to the membership information relating to significant projects and undertakings of the club.

SECTION 4 The Executive Board shall meet a minimum of once per year in January and at the call of any Executive Board member. The dates, times, and locations of Executive Board meetings shall be publicized to all club members at least three days in advance of the meetings. The frequency of board meetings shall be consistent with the operational management nature of the Executive Board. The quorum for board meetings shall be a majority of board members.

SECTION 5 The officers of the Executive Board shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Station Trustee.

SECTION 6 A board vacancy occurring prior to the December Annual Meeting must be filled by appointment by the Executive Board within three weeks after the vacancy is announced. The term of an appointed board member is that of the vacant position. Unless the term expires, an appointed board member must be confirmed by a vote of the membership at the next December Annual Meeting.

~~SECTION 7 Members of the Executive Board may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the membership.~~

#### Proposed amendment

**SECTION 7 Members of the Executive Board may be removed by majority vote of a quorum of the membership.**

SECTION 8 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and meetings of the club membership; conduct meetings according to the rules adopted; enforce due observance of this Constitution

and By laws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents that are adopted by the club and none other; appoint committees as appropriate to club activities; and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of president.

SECTION 9 The Vice President shall assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter; be the chair of the club program committee; and arrange for meeting places for monthly club activities and scheduled meetings of the membership.

SECTION 10 The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all board meetings and Annual or special meetings of the membership; in cooperation with the Treasurer, keep a roll of members; carry on club correspondence; read communications at meetings; publish written notices in advance of board meetings and meetings of the membership; maintain all official records of the club; ensure continuing registration of the club with appropriate governmental entities including not-for-profit status, charitable organization status, tax exempt status; maintain the club's ARRL affiliation; and other duties. Upon succession, the outgoing Secretary shall turn over all club records to the incoming Secretary.

SECTION 11 The Treasurer shall receive and receipt for all moneys paid to the club; keep an accurate account of all moneys received and expensed; maintain a bank checking account in the club's name; and maintain a listing of significant equipment owned by the club. The Treasurer shall pay no bills without proper authorization by the Executive Board. In November and May, the Treasurer shall submit a written itemized statement of disbursements and receipts to the Executive Board. Upon succession, the outgoing Treasurer shall turn over all club records and moneys to the incoming Treasurer.





## For sale: used only on Sundays

For Sale: Yaesu FT 857. In good condition and great for mobile HF use. Could be accompanied by Yaesu ATAS 120A automatically tuned antenna, a "screwdriver" antenna that is made to operate with the '857. Both could be yours.....IF....Riverland Amateur Radio Club Executive Board recommendations are endorsed at the June club meeting.

Equipment will be on display at the meeting.

Former Ham Leonard Olson has donated that gear and more to the club and asked that it be used primarily for the club or to help new Hams. He was informed that the club would attempt to do this and that gear not used for those purposes would be sold.

All of the gear appears clean and most is in its original boxes.

The club's executive board recommends:

The club keep Icom IC 718 HF Transceiver; Icom AT 180 Auto Tuner; Samlex America SEC 1223 Switching DC Power Supply; Kenwood TH-G71 Dual Band HT; Kenwood PG 3J Cigarette Lighter Cord; Kenwood SMC 34 Speaker Microphone; Kenwood BC 17 HT Battery Charger; Kenwood TM G707A Dual Band FM transceiver; VHF UHF mag mount antenna; Straight Key.

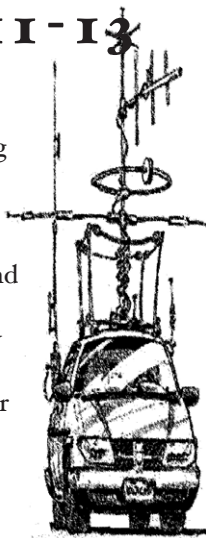
The following items will be sold, first by bid to club members, then the general public at the Swap:

Yaesu FT 857 Transceiver ; Yaesu ATAS 120a active tuning antenna; the club's Yaesu TF 17?? VHF Transceiver; MFJ 1702C Antenna Switch; MFJ 461 Pocket CW Reader; ARRL Repeater Directory.

## VHF Contest June 11-13

The VHF bands should be hot for the ARRL June VHF Contest [www.arrl.org/june\\_vhf](http://www.arrl.org/june_vhf), June 11-13. Even modest stations may work hundreds of miles on the VHF bands during at the beginning of summer's sporadic E season, which can produce intense openings on 6 meters, and even 2 meters.

VHF frequencies are open to Technician class Hams so it is an opportunity for Techs to make distant contacts and experience the joy of HF operating. Participating in the VHF event can be quite simple, since many HF transceivers have 6 meters, and possibly other VHF/UHF bands. Antennas are simple and small, too. You can find plans for simple VHF antennas on the ARRL website. VHF antennas are generally smaller than their HF counterparts, so you can operate from your favorite campsite or any location on high terrain and make many QSOs. All you need to know is the Maidenhead grid square of your operating location, which is the contest exchange.



## Riverland Amateur Radio Club

### Executive Board meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

King Street Kitchen, La Crosse

Present: Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

#### SWAP

Miller has permission to pay deposit on Omni Center. Bill Wood, KE9XQ, and Carl Thurston, KC9HDS, are working on having commercial exhibitors.

#### FIELD DAY

Abts reported he is still looking for a reasonably priced port a potty; Jostad does not want the club to mess with his toilet. Abts reported on new points-getters: having a safety officer and having social media. At the June meeting he will ask for volunteers to sign up for various Field Day duties.

#### WELCOME PACKET

Holcomb will work on developing an informational pamphlet that could be given to new and prospective members.

#### DONATED ITEMS

see "For Sale," page 4

#### CONSTITUTION CHANGE

The board recommended one change to the proposed revision of the club constitution:

*SECTION 7 Members of the Executive Board may be removed by majority vote of a quorum of the membership.*

The proposed constitution change will be brought up for discussion and possible vote at the club's June membership meeting.

#### MEETING FACILITIES

Abts seeks facilities that would accommodate operating and that do not cost. The Red Cross does not seem feasible because there is not local staff; the City of La Crosse facilities (e.g. Southside Community Center) charge. He will look at the Harry J. Olson and Southside Senior citizen centers and others. Holcomb will talk with La Crosse County officials about the county's new EOC.

#### CLUB SHIRTS

Holcomb is shopping for a supplier.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Holcomb will explore the ARRL's Emergency Communications book for information on netiquette and emergency operations.

#### TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Miller reported frustration attempting to refile the club's tax status IRS Form 990N. He continues to work on filing. (NOTE: he managed to get the job completed by May 26, 2016.)

We miss your active participation in the club. Renew your membership now so you don't miss any of the Ham radio fun!



## Riverland Amateur Radio Club Membership

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Member dues \$20

or

Family membership dues \$25 (covers all members of immediate family in the household)

Names and call signs (if any) of family members

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Contributions** for special projects or general operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated purpose \_\_\_\_\_

(Contributions may be applied to tax deductions)

**%Total dues and contributions enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

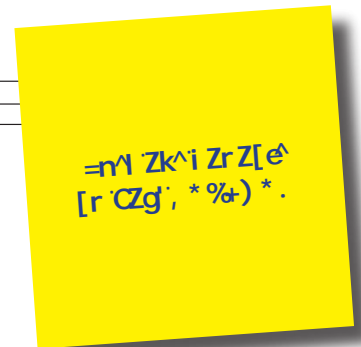
Return this form and a check to the treasurer at the January club meeting or mail it to:

**RARC  
Box 621  
Onalaska,  
Wisconsin 54650**

My interests include:

Public Service  DX  Construction  Boat Anchors  QRP  Ragchew

Suggest program topics that would interest you, that you could present, or persons who possibly could make presentations.





# We're running a half marathon

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

The Grand Bluff Half Marathon was run again. The RARC was present as observers and marshals. It all went fairly smoothly with only one injury of note. Without going into too much detail, a participant sustained an injury that required being transported to a local hospital. It is remarkable that there weren't more who became injured after all, a half marathon is a course of a little over 13 miles and that is a great distance to run regardless of the training that one goes through in preparation for this event. Granted, it is no a full marathon of more than 26 miles, but the rigors of even a half marathon is beyond most. Those who successfully completed this event, regardless of their final placing at the end of it, are to be commended for their determination and stamina.

It is truly amazing how many participants there were. The level of physical fitness required is high, and to think that so many hundreds of people turned out and ran is mind boggling. For such a high percentage of runners who finished, is even more remarkable. Perhaps this success was due to how well organized it was. Everything about this event was handled in a most professional manner. The lay out of the course was well defined with plenty of traffic cones and road blocks. Everywhere there were course marshals who kept the runners running and the vehicle traffic flowing.

There were strategically placed watering and first aid stations along the entire route. If there were traffic problems, they were kept to a minimum. There were ample emergency personnel to

be seen at most points along the way. In addition to the county emergency response units which coordinated the over the air communications between the various agencies involved, there was a contingent of the La Crosse Police Department, Tri State Ambulance Service, and a complete mobile field hospital set up and ready for action. It was so well organized that there was little that could go wrong that wasn't covered. Added to all of the professional help, there was a sizable contingent of Amateur Radio Operators involved as well. The members of Riverland Amateur Radio Club who helped marshal and relay messages included: DuWayne Cadmus, KD9AXP;

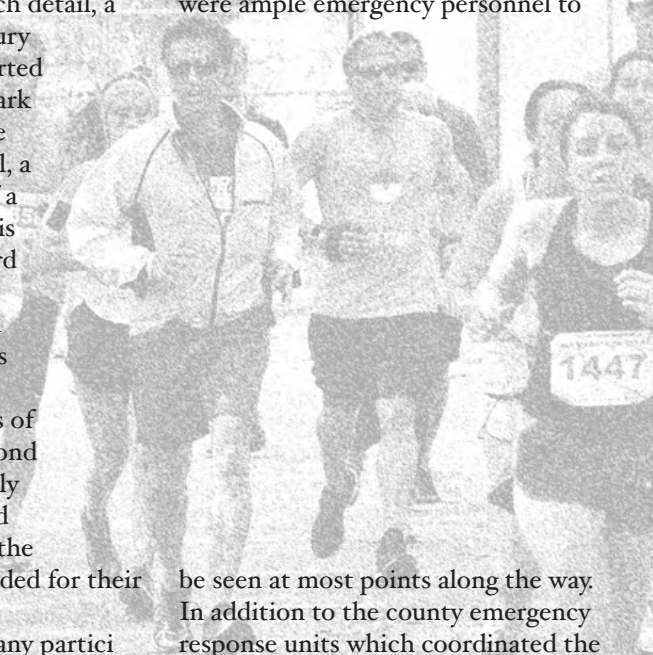
Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Art Osborn, W0JDC; Dave Peters, KB9EWG; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; Carl Thurston, KC9HDS; Bill Wood, KE9XQ; and Larry Worthington, KC9HDP.

Beyond all of the elements that went into the various support groups, it must be pointed out that the weather was as perfect as it could be. The sun shone through partly cloudy skies, the wind was mainly calm, and the temperature just warm enough to make it a joy to run, thus rendering the environment just right for such an event.

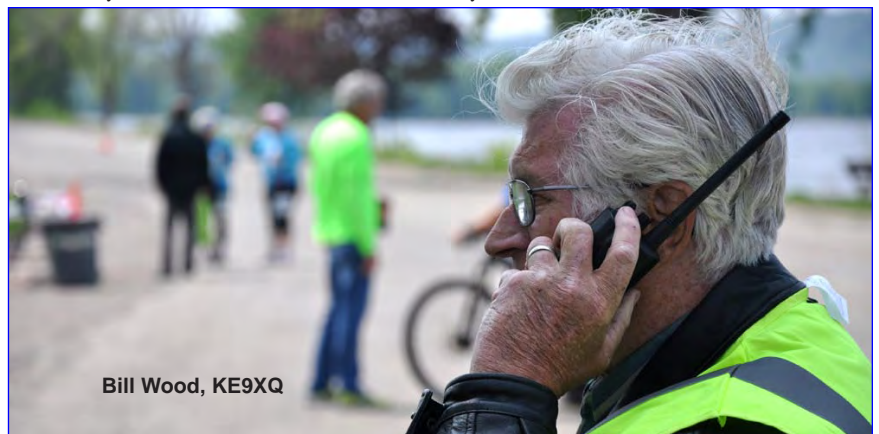
By the end of the event, Riverside Park was brimming with exhausted, but generally happy runners. The support staff involved was able to relax and enjoy the festivities as well.

It was yet another successful event where so many different agencies worked well together to insure that everyone had a good, safe time at this year's Grand Half Marathon.

One can say that there is always room for improvement, and each year, this event does improve a little bit each time; but like each of the past years, when completed, this year's event went off so flawlessly, that it is hard to imagine how it can be improved. After experiencing the total effect of an event like this, one comes away with a sense of why this event is so popular and why it is so much fun to work on and a desire is generated to be involved with it again next year.



DuWayne Cadmus, KD9AXP



Bill Wood, KE9XQ