

# THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club



The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. The club is active in community service as well as actively promoting Amateur Radio in the Coulee Region. The Club is open to all who are interested in Amateur Radio and will help unlicensed persons become licenses thru the FCC.

## MS WALK

**Riverland  
Amateur Radio  
Club**  
P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, WI.  
54636

**Repeater**  
146.970 PL 131.8

**RARC Net**  
8:00 PM Sunday  
night on the  
146.970 Repeater

**Club Meetings**  
Trustee Meeting  
3rd Monday of the  
month at King  
Street Kitchen at  
5:00 PM, all club  
members are  
welcome.

**Program evening is**  
1st Tuesday of the  
month at 7:00 PM,  
Gunderson Clinic  
conference room 1  
in the lower level.



As Spring arrives it brings more activities for the Riverland Amateur Radio Club, such as the MS Walk that was held on April 29th. Members were stationed along the walking route prepared for any communications needs by the walkers. They also helped with the Festival Foods Half Marathon on May 6. Both activities went with out any issues thanks to the good job of organizing by President Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD.

## JUNE PROGRAM NIGHT

The June Program Night will be held at the Gunderson Clinic, Conference Room 1 on Tuesday June 6. This will be a project night were members will have a hand at assembling various things, such as a 1/4 wave 2m antenna or a dipole. Come and smell the solder burning.





Took a little vacation this past month and flew to Seattle, WA. Encountered a lot of turbulence along the way. As I looked out the window below is what I saw going by. Made the plane bounce.



**Riverland Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 621  
Onalaska, WI 54650**

President.....Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD  
Vice-President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS  
Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS  
Treasurer.....Greg Miller, K9LEC  
Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS  
Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK  
Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ  
Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC

The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. Address any correspondence to: Greg Miller at k9lec@arrl.net.

Visit our website at rarc.qth.com



Testing for new Ham's or upgrades for 2017 will be on the following dates

- June 3
- August 5 (Swapfest)
- September 9
- November 11

Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurtytel.net.

**W9EOA, Ron Martinmaki Silent Key**

The LaCrosse Ham Community lost a solid foundation of Amateur Radio when Ron passed way on Tuesday May 16, 2017. Ron was always there when anyone needed help with anything that had to do with radio. He elmered many thru the years as well as built and repaired radios, power supplies and loved building traps for dipoles. He was a long time member of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club and contributed to the club in many ways. Ron, rest in peace, You will be missed.



# A Hapless Ham on Holiday...

By Carl Thurston KC9HDS

For those of you who aren't aware, the "Hapless Ham" has traveled "Down Under" to attend his daughter's wedding. As with anything that he is involved with, things don't always go as planned. Oh yes, there were months and months of feverish preparation, carefully planned but not always so carefully executed. His XYL did a superior job of lining up all of the tickets, reservation, visas, and a list of what was needed and what wasn't; which our hero pretty much ignored as to what he packed, both needed and not. It seems that no matter what he thinks will work, there are usually several Gremlins that rake havoc with all that he does, and this trip was no exception. It started off well enough. The trip itinerary included: a shuttle ride in a van to the airport in Minneapolis, a plane ride from Minneapolis to Los Angeles, followed by another from Los Angeles to Brisbane, and yet another from Brisbane to Townsville Queensland Australia. Though rather involved, this all seemed to be easily doable, especially for the "Hapless Ham," who never gets the whole picture of what is happening.

A friend hauled him, his XYL, and a short ton of baggage to the departure point where a van waited to take them to the Minneapolis air terminal. That went well. So did the shuttle ride. The shuttle driver, a retired farmer from Mindoro, WI, was both competent and entertaining, so the start went very well indeed. Lulled into a sense of relaxed security, our hero was content to sit there fat, dumb, and happy; watching the scenery go by as he traversed from French Island to Minneapolis. Once at the terminal, things got busy, but everything still went well. Since they had a TSA Pre Sort pass, the check in was a breeze. Once on the initial plane, it was time to sit back and let the pilot and flight attendants do their jobs. American Airlines is the "Hapless Ham's" first choice for domestic travel, and it was a good one. As they traveled from MPS to LAX, in comfort and safety, they felt that things couldn't be better, and this was apparently true. Complimentary beverages were served, (coffee, tea, milk, water, or soft drinks with a small bag of pretzels. So far so good. But then, hunger set in some where in between, and pretzels just weren't enough, so a small but tasty cheese and fruit tray was available for a mere \$10. Since they were on holiday, they got one and it did help to quell the hunger beast. The flight was smooth and only 4 hours long, so by the time that they arrived in LAX, they were ready for more. Having gotten through the TSA gauntlet in MPS with little effort, it was thought that it would be the same in LAX; wrong! The TSA there hadn't heard of TSA Pre Check, so our hero was not only subjected to a near strip search, but they decided to tear his carry on baggage apart and look for the hidden contraband that they must contain. To say that this was unexpected is to put it mildly. Our hero showed his true colors when this happened by strenuously objecting verbally to this. It was a good thing that TSA had already taken our hero's cane to put it through the scanner, or he might have used it to reinforce his objection to their proceedings. Perhaps this was a good thing, or it might have been much worse for him. Once through the gauntlet of the TSA, our hero had to scamper to the exit terminal, only to find that there was ample time to spare, so he and his XYL cooled down with a leisurely lunch of chicken salad wraps, water melon bits, and a diet Dr. Pepper, all for the paltry price of \$30.00. All of this and no WiFi on the plane so far, but then that was the American Airlines domestic flight. Once on the QANTAS flight, things were different. Not only was the WiFi free, but so was everything else! So in spite of the rather long flight from LAX to Brisbane (14+ hours), all warm and comfy. Between the great food, drinks, and individual video screens that featured real time flight info, TV shows, Radio programs, News, Games, and current movies, plus nice warm blankets, pillows, and very attentive Flight Attendants; our hero was once again lulled into a satisfied slumber until landing in Brisbane. Arriving a bit later than expected, he again had to scramble to catch the flight from Brisbane to Townsville (the final destination). Thanks to QANTAS guides at Brisbane, we made connections and arrived in Townsville safely, but minus our baggage.

# RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**Monday May 15, 2017 Executive Meeting**

## MINUTES

**Call to order:** 5:09 PM

**Members Present** : Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD, Greg Miller K9LEC, Roger Reader KA9BKK, Dan Abts AB9TS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS

**Approval of Minutes:** Approved without comment

**Treasurer's Report:** Monthly report available upon request from Greg, K9LEC

### **Committee Reports:**

Greg: no swapfest update other than the flyer will be placed in the June issue of "The Key"

Field Day: Bill, KE9XQ, is the contact person this year, he should contact Jostad's to let them know our intentions.

### **Old Business:**

Club shirts, Kevin, KC9ZGD: We will be working with Ad Concepts in La Crosse for screen printing and embroidery of jackets and shirts with club logo and callsigns. They will set up a website for each member to go to individually as they wish for direct order of their products. There is no extra charge for them to set up this website.

Rick, KD9GVS will update Constitution/Standing Rules with a few minor revisions in time for next Executive meeting.

### **New Business:**

Winona amateur radio club (WARC) will be utilizing the 146.97 repeater for the Sept. 16 Ride the Ridges event.

No July meeting due to Holiday, but Kevin is organizing a club contest in which all club members are encouraged to make as many contacts as possible that day with other members, using any and all modes and Amateur frequencies that are appropriate. More details to follow.

**Motion to Adjourn** : 5:52 PM

*June 2017*

*3rd....License Testing*

*6th....Program Night*

*19th....Executive Committee Meeting*

*24th-25th....ARRL Field Day 2017*



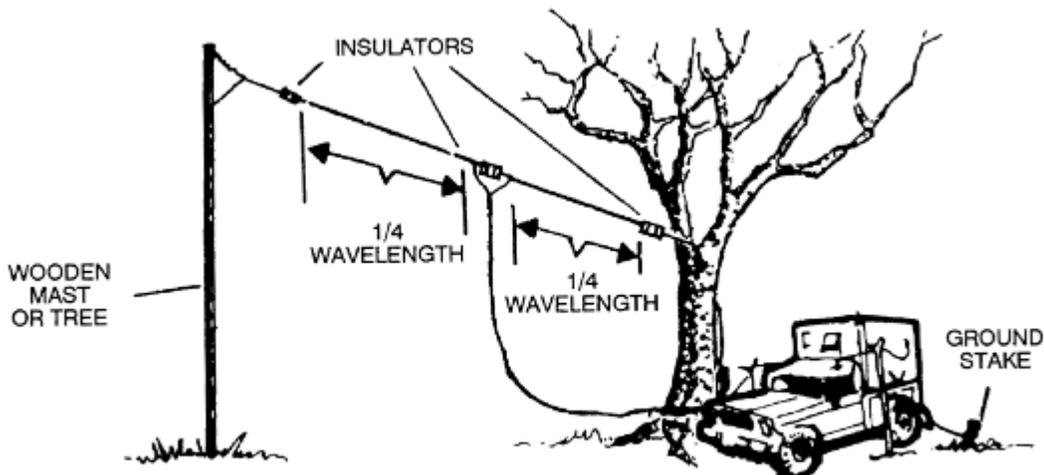
It's that time of year again, Field Day 2017. And as in past years the Riverland Amateur Radio Club will be participating at the Jostad location which is the same location as last year. (See direction below.) Field Day is Amateur Radios big annual event where more than 35,000 Hams go to unusual places to set up there equipment and for 24 hours make as many contacts as they possibly can. Some trying to be the station with the most contacts and others, like the Riverland group use it as a more social event to introduce others to the fun of Amateur Radio. Plan on stopping out for some good company and even some good food and drink.

This years Field Day chairman is Bill Wood, KE9XQ. Bill can be reached at 608-792-2281 or KE9XQ@CHARTER.NET for further information.

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.



[WWW.ARRL.ORG](http://WWW.ARRL.ORG)



**A SPECIAL NOTE:**

**Below is a notice of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club Swap Fest on August 5, 2017. Although it mentions ARRL Card Check, at this time the person scheduled will not be able to attend. We will attempt to locate another card check but at this time we may be with out that service.**

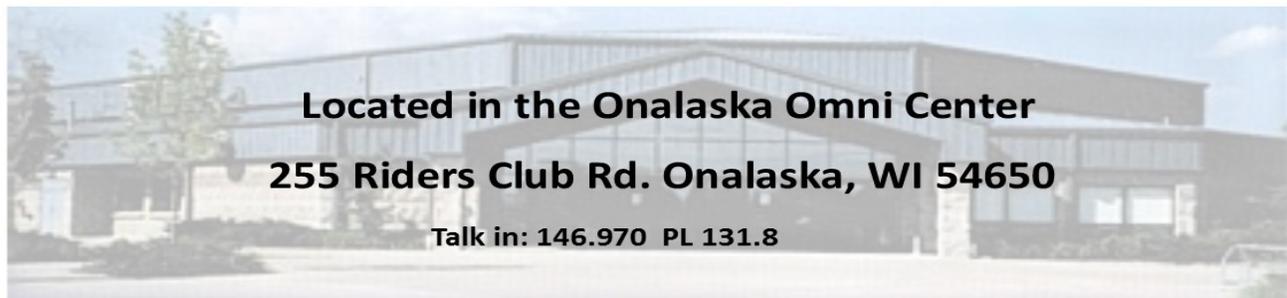


**RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**SWAP FEST**

**AUGUST 5, 2017**

**8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**



**Door Prizes**

**Vendors**

**Flea Market**

**Buy—Sell—Trade**

**Tailgating**

**Food Vendor**

**Handicap Accessible**

**ARRL Award Card Checks:**

**DXCC, VUCC, WAC, WAS, 160m**



**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

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

Further info call Greg Miller at 608-792-7841 or e-mail k9lec@arrl.net