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It shouldn't be an option...

At times it seems to be an overwhelming task to just keep things going. The whole world is in a state of continual chaos, but if that isn't enough, we find ourselves in a crush of things that are demanding our immediate attention. Everyone is trying to make the best of what is happening globally, but we all need to take a breath and push on. We will survive this, if we work together. When you look at the world news that floods in on us every day it is hard to cope, but we must. We need to be resilient to be able to do the things that we feel need to be done. It would be so easy to just say that what is going on is "Not my problem..." but the trouble with that is, "It IS our problem."

Whether we want to deal with things or not isn't the real issue. We are in this thing and we can either sink or swim. To turn our backs on everything that is happening around us would seem to be so easy. After all in the final analysis what difference does it make? Wouldn't it be so much simpler to just let go and move on to other more pleasant things? Granted, there are many things happening in the world that are beyond our individual control. It is hoped that there are greater minds than ours out there who can deal with the "Big Picture." All that we need to do is take care of the little things that we can deal with, and maybe everything else will just fall into place and when we wake up we will find that it was all just a bad dream. Perhaps this is what would happen in a scenario with a "Hollywood ending." But are we in such a deluded situation that we really think that if we just ignore the way that things are going all will be well and we will only need to turn our backs for all to turn out?

In order for us to see things through, we need to concentrate on those things that we have always done to ensure the stability that we all desire. We need to focus on where we are at, and what needs to be done and how we can contribute to a meaningful effort for us to assure that the desired end will result. Oh yes, it will take a positive response from a lot of people to achieve this, but if we work together, we can make it happen.

Our immediate calendar is rather full of things that need to be worked on. It is almost June and as if things aren't heating up in the world already, we are looking at our annual club picnic, Field Day and several other things looming in the distance in July and August. It would be so easy to just let things slide and say why bother? All that it takes to do what needs to be done to crush the lackadaisical attitude that so many prefer by stepping up and helping out. We could all just pick up and move on to a place where we can sit and enjoy the view of others scrambling to do what needs to be done. After all, it takes such a large amount of effort for things to be done right. Granted, things are piling up on all of us right now and the tasks at hand do seem to be daunting, especially when we look at all of them together, but if we just take one thing at a time, together we can do what needs to be done. When that happens, we will all feel a bit better by being able to say, that we were able to pull it off. In reality, this may seem to be insurmountable but it is like the question "How do you eat and elephant?" You do it one bite at a time! We all need to take that bite, and before long we will see that that elephant wasn't so big after all.

So you see, we must push to bring some sort of normalcy back to our own small corner of the world. We may not have the answer to what is happening globally, but we can make a difference in the Big Picture by doing what we can here and now. If everyone takes that one bite, we will be able to eat that elephant. To do otherwise is not an option, so act now your help is needed, there is much to do. The more people who help out, the lighter the load will be on everyone. So do pitch in and help where ever you can. 73 Carl kc9hds



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings to all Club Members,

June is lined up to be a fairly busy month for the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. On Saturday June 4th we will be having our club picnic at Rowe Park Shelter #2 in Onalaska. Club members are welcome to arrive at the shelter starting around 10:00 AM that morning. Charcoal grilled steaks are back on the menu this year after a two year lapse due to COVID-19 precautions being in place. Every attempt will be made to have the steaks ready sometime during the noon hour. Club members attending are asked to bring a "Potluck" style side dish to pass. To facilitate fellowship among hams and non-ham family members, we are encouraging members to bring outdoor lawn games if they have them. Rowe Park has a Frisbee Golf Course for us to use and enjoy. Dan AB9TS will supply the Frisbees needed for a pickup game of Frisbee Golf.

For our club meeting on Tuesday June 7th at UUF, we will be planning for our Field Day Event (June 25th / June 26th). This will be our opportunity as a group to determine what modes, bands, antenna configurations we wish to employ to make this a successful event. This year we are going back to holding the event at Jostad's Farm (N6421 Jostad Road, Holmen, WI, 54636).

The club's July "Meeting" is being held on Wednesday July 6th at 5:30 PM aboard the La

Crosse Queen (Pizza Cruise). We did not have enough members sign up ahead of time to warrant a contract with the club and the cruise line. If we had the club would've purchased the tickets as a group. Therefore in order to reserve your spot, club members need to go online on **June 8th** to purchase their own tickets. Their web address is: <http://www.lacrossequeen.com/>

On Saturday June 18th Irishfest La Crosse will be hosting an Irishfest Road Bowling event in which two person teams compete in tossing a baseball sized cannon ball along a 1.7 mile course. The team completing the course with the least amount of throws wins the event. It is meant to be a light hearted friendly competition. Drew AB9NE and I will be representing the Riverland Amateur Radio Club this year. Scott KB3MKD and David KB9EWG will have their handheld radios on hand to serve as "Spotters" along the course. This event is being held at W1097 Manke Hesselberg Rd., Bangor, WI and runs from 11:00 AM to 1 PM. Other club members are invited to volunteer as "Spotters" or come as spectators. Contact me at eistim68@gmail.com for more details.

Until I see you all in person (or via Zoom) at the June 7th, 2022 club meeting, I bid you all 73.

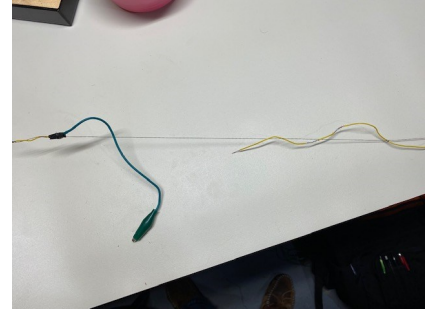
Shawn, KD9KGQ



A Linked Dipole Antenna

Building antennas has long been a favorite part of Amateur Radio for me. I enjoy putting wires and cables together, then using it to make contacts on the air. What I wanted was a light-weight, easy to deploy, multi-band antenna with good performance for portable work.

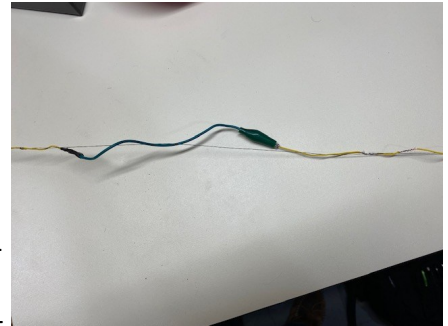
The idea of a linked dipole is one that has intrigued me. It allows a multi-band antenna to be built to full length by having segments that can be hooked up or disconnected depending which band was to be used. I'm a believer in using antennas of full length as shortening them with coils or traps degrades performance. I've seen some different designs for linking the sections, but wanted something easy to build with materials that I either already had or could easily be acquired.



I had a balun, and I had some light 26 ga insulated antenna wire. I also had several test leads with alligator clips at both ends and a length of wire between them. I thought alligator clips could work to link the sections of an antenna, but would not provide the physical support needed.

The idea came to me that if I had something else to provide the physical support, then I could just let the alligator clamp dangle for the section of the antenna beyond that which I was using at the time. As I looked over my shelf, I came across some fishing line. That just might work...

Wanting to make sure that the line was sufficiently strong, I got some 30 lb braided line and hooked it up to the balun. I added the wire, originally using electrical tape to hold it, but with some experimenting, learned that just holding it with a hitch worked better. I made sure that the fishing line is always a little bit shorter than the antenna wire, so it provides the physical support. I made sure to wind the wire and fishing line together so they don't dangle separately. It took a few sessions in my backyard to erect the antenna and trim each section to resonance. There is a 20 M section, and a 40 M section. Since 15 M is an odd harmonic of 40, it will resonate there as well. I decided to make an 80 M section detachable, so I could use it if needed, but the antenna is half as long without it when it is not needed. A 10 M section can be inserted.



I used the antenna for the first time atop a 33' fiberglass mast at the Wisconsin QSO Party, and got unsolicited compliments from operators I contacted regarding my signal strength; I used the 40M section exclusively in that contest. Last weekend I used the 20M section with the same mast and had my first ever QSO with a station from Japan. I am, needless to say, thrilled with the results I've seen with this antenna so far. I enjoy portable operations, and this antenna is really helping me achieve success with it. My next trick is to mount it to the mast with a pulley to make it easy to raise and lower.



Drew



AB9NE

La Crosse County Emergency Management Presentation

Kevin Rindy, La Crosse, County Emergency Management Director, gave us a presentation on the County's Emergency management systems. He works under the county sheriff. La Crosse County is part of the Wisconsin West Central region and the Wisconsin State Emergency management system.

Programs run include Grant Management, Damage Assessment, Hazard Mitigation, Ready Wisconsin, and Training Wisconsin. Information about each of these can be found on the state website.

Hazard mitigation is the sustainable actions that reduce long term risk to people and property. Flood protection, fire prevention, storm damage prevention, and other actions can reduce long term risk. It can take as long as ten years to recover from a major disaster, and spending some money up front can save much more when disaster hits. Risk assessment is a key part of this phase.

When disaster hits, damage must be assessed. How much damage, how widespread is the damage and what type of damage are major factors.

The response is the next key element. EMS, Fire, Police, utilities, and communications are all parts of the response.

After the incident comes the recovery phase. Long term rebuilding of damaged infrastructure, homes, and businesses becomes the focus.

As civilians and ham radio operators, how can we help?

Communications are an important part of any emergency management system. We can be eyes and ears for emergency coordinators, and backup communications when the main infrastructure is damaged or overloaded. When an emergency happens, cell phone coverage is the first part to get overloaded,

It is important to remember in such situations, that we are not first responders. But if we work professionally with the first responders, we will be trusted by them.

Training is a key element. We can join Skywarn, get some training there, and we can go online and get training in the communications standards used by professional first responders so that when such an incident happens we are prepared.

Nationally FEMA uses the National Incident management system (NIMS) and when amateur radio operators are involved, we are activated under the Incident Command system (ICS). ICS training is available online for free.

Weather Ready and Storm Ready are also programs that are used for preparing for disaster.

Scott

KB3MKD



A few links for more information

La Crosse County Emergency management: <https://www.lacrossecounty.org/emergencymanagement>

Federal Emergency Management Agency: [fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

National Weather Service Weather Ready Nation: <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/>

ICS training: <https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/trainingmaterials/>

UPCOMING Events for April 2022

- ♦ RARC Sunday Night 2Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for March are:

June 5, 2022	Mark kb9ofk
June 12, 2022	Rick kd9gvs
June 19, 2022	David kd9epn
June 26, 2022	Shawn kd9kgq

- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **June 4...**Annual club picnic. Rowe Park Shelter #2, Onalaska
- ♦ **June 7...**Program Night: Field day Planning
- ♦ **June 18 ...**Irishfest Road Bowling
- ♦ **June 20...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Arterial Bar and Grill. All members are welcome to attend. Notice new time and place.
- ♦ **June 25-26...** Field Day. Jostad Farm (N6421 Jostad Road, Holmen, WI, 54636).

BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net



THIS IS EMPTY!! SEND ME STUFF!!

CLUB INFORMATION



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 621

Onalaska, WI 54650

- * The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club by the 28th of each month. The newsletter focuses on news, announcements and activities of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. It may also consist of news and information of interest to the Amateur Radio community as a whole. Guest editorials and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome. Contribution articles should be submitted NLT the 26th of the month. Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Scott Cross KB3MKD@arrl.net
- * The Riverland Amateur Radio Club maintains a website at rarc.qth.com. More information about the club can be found there as well as past copies of The Key.
- * RARC also maintains a Facebook page where members add information and share their Amateur Radio adventures. Please friend us at Riverland Amateur Radio Club—RARC.
- * RARC maintains a repeater that is located on the WXOW television tower above La Crosse, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.
- * RARC holds a weekly 2meter net on Sundays at 8:00 PM on the 146.970 repeater.
- * Trustee Meeting is held the 3rd Monday of the month at Arterial Bar and Grill at 5:30 PM, all club members are welcome.
- * Program evening is held the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM, elmer session at 6:30 PM at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 401 West Avenue in La Crosse.
- * Weekly "Breakfast Club" Ragchew on the 146.970 repeater on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Stop by to say "hi".

Below are listed your RARC 2022 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

Vice-President.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email...kb9ewg@gmail.com

Secretary.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

Trustee.....Scott Cross, KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net

Trustee.....Rick Kolter KD9GVS Email rckolter@gmail.com

Repeater Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK Email...readers@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net