

**RIVERLAND
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB (RARC)
LA CROSSE, WI**



ISSUE 3 FOR 2023

MARCH 2023

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Winter Field Day 2023...

It has at times been a struggle to get back to a more normal mode. Winter Field Day 2023 really helped. There were some more vigorous new methods of operating that were tried, that made it most enjoyable.

It all was rather loosely organized, with the participants lending their assistance as they each saw fit to do. Winter Field Day, it being the first event of the year, is always a pivotal event. Oh yes, there were the usual items that were arranged for the event: The rental of the Monica Lane shelter that Onalaska Park and Rec. maintains and provides. The united work of various club members who brought it all together. The good fellowship that ensued. The leisurely operations of the event. Winter Field Day tends to set the tone for things to come. This year's Winter Field Day was no exception. In addition to the usual things that were needed to happen to make it successful, this year's event brought a few new things to it. For example, there were some new faces that came: i.e. A father and son who came to see what Amateur Radio was all about and a new member who has yet to get his license but is eager to do so. A number of seasoned Elmers, including Roger Reader KA9BKK, were present who gave a good showing of the things that make Amateur Radio interesting and viable. Much useful information was passed on to those present as a result. The operations went well with over 40 QSOs logged in the 3 hours that we operated. I personally didn't operate this time around as I was more interested in making sure that everything worked smoothly and that everyone who attended felt welcome and content with the various aspects of the event.

UPCOMING Events for March 2023

- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM. PM, Fork and Fable. All members are welcome to attend.
- ♦ **March 7...**Program Night: Antenna building projects. RARC Sunday Night 2Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00
- ♦ **March 11...**St Patricks Day Parade. To volunteer contact Rick KD9GVS
rckolter@gmail.com **March 5, 2022** Rick kd9gvs
- ♦ **March 12...**Wisconsin QSO party. For details contact Drew AB9NE
ab9ne@yahoo.com **March 12, 2022** Wayne k0wlo
- ♦ **March 20...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 **March 19, 2022** Shawn kd9kgq
- March 26, 2022** Mark kb9ofk

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello, Everybody,

There was a nice gathering for the Post-Holiday Party early in February. There were nice gifts for the men and women who attended. We want to be sure to thank family members for the time they allow us to devote to radio interests and this club. I put together a little quiz to generate conversation. It may be included elsewhere in this newsletter. It turned out to not really be necessary. This club's members never seem to have trouble visiting. It's one of the things I really enjoy about this group. I had fun putting the quiz together, though. Folks seemed to be challenged by it.

We're moving along through the start of the year, and club activities are getting underway. I encourage you to get involved. We are preparing for this year's Field Day. A club project this year is to prepare new antennas for Field Day (and other) use. We ordered balun kits, wire, wire winders, insulators and bags for the antennas. We're happy to have new and experienced hands to pitch in for the production. We're putting an emphasis on practical activities that expose participants to real-world radio and equipment. Your expertise can go a long way toward making this a better hobby for a newcomer, and can give you both satisfaction of helping and the chance to meet a new friend. We can all learn new things.

The club has a number of events coming up this year. It'll really start in earnest in just a few weeks with the St. Patrick's Day Parade (and post-parade party), followed the very next day by the Wisconsin QSO Party. Do yourself a favor and add these events to your list of things to do.

We have an upcoming guest speaker lined up, too. Bob Heil, K9EID will join us via Zoom to speak at our April 4 program meeting. His presentation will focus primarily on antennas. He is a very knowledgeable and experienced ham who gave a riveting presentation when he spoke to us last year.

We have a good group of officers who are putting in effort to improve the club, and keep activities going. We had a number of regular club members join us at the February Board meeting. I'd like to thank all of those who did, and encourage others to join us as well. It is your club, and it is better because of your efforts.

Drew

AB9NE



More NVIS Information

There has been some interest in Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) communications locally the past few years with exercises being run to determine to what extent we can rely on it to help with regional communications. Of particular need would be if communications had to be established from a part of La Crosse or surrounding counties where the terrain would prevent reliable VHF/UHF voice from reaching. Our exercises have tried to determine how reliable NVIS would be, and give us first-hand experience with it. Our efforts have met with mixed results.

I came across an article a couple of weeks ago that described some things that other operators have found to be effective and it shed some light on why some of our results may have turned out the way that they did.

My intention with this article is not to give all of the details, but to point this article out to people to look up. The article of which I write is found at practicalantennas.com. The NVIS article was last updated Jan. 30, 2023, so it is up-to-date. It describes how to determine the Critical Frequency, which tells you the frequency below which you might have success on a given day and at what time of day. It would provide a good explanation as to why we had poor results on the 40M band, but better success the same time of day on the 75M band a few weeks later.

The article goes on to give a good comparison of results with a selection of antennas at different heights.

There is a good deal of information available that can help us to make NVIS more reliable, and tell us how to use it better.



Quiz

1. This ham hit .264 lifetime over 16 seasons in the American League of Baseball. He hit .309 in his highest season and 22 home runs for his highest home run production four years later.
2. What is the oldest operational satellite that carries amateur radio?
3. How many studios are at W1AW from which visiting hams can operate?
4. Of the three current major Japanese manufacturers: which one first introduced amateur radio equipment to the market? When did it start selling amateur equipment, and when did the other two begin?
5. In what state is the office of CQ magazine?
6. In what year was ARRL's first Field Day held?
7. What famous ham radio operator tries to think about Elvis? Which one can't help it?
8. What part of FCC rules governs amateur radio? How many Subparts does it have? Can you name them?
9. Dr. Joseph Taylor, K1JT, won a Nobel Prize in 1993. In what field was his award?
10. When were Q-signals developed and by what organization?



Those of you who were at the post holiday party will recognize these questions.

Quiz Answers

This ham hit .264 lifetime over 16 seasons in the American League of Baseball. He hit .309 in his highest season and 22 home runs for his highest home run production four years later.

Joe Rudi NK7U, who is in the member spotlight of the March QST magazine

What is the oldest operational satellite that carries amateur radio?

OSCAR 7 launched in 1974. Contacts with it are still reported daily in January 2023. Its batteries failed in 1981, but it continues on its solar panels.

How many studios are at W1AW from which visiting hams can operate?

Three

Of the three current major Japanese manufacturers: which one first introduced amateur radio equipment to the market? When did it start selling amateur equipment, and when did the other two begin?

Kenwood in 1946

Yaesu in 1959

Icom in 1964

In what state is the office of CQ magazine?

New York; Sayville, NY to be specific.

In what year was ARRL's first Field Day held?

1933

What famous ham radio operator tries to think about Elvis? Which one can't help it?

Patty Loveless KD4WUJ

Priscilla Presley N6YOS

What part of FCC rules governs amateur radio? How many Subparts does it have? Can you name them?

Part 97

Subpart A - General Provisions

Subpart B - Station Operation Standards

Subpart C - Special Operations

Subpart D - Technical Standards

Subpart E - Providing Emergency Communications

Subpart F - Qualifying Examination Systems

Dr. Joseph Taylor, K1JT, won a Nobel Prize in 1993. In what field was his award?

Physics

When were Q-signals developed and by what organization?

Circa 1909 by the British government



Winter Field Day 2023... (Continued)

Having assumed a new role in the club as Vice President, I found myself more focused on assisting our President to see that all went well. Drew Neve AB9NE, our new President, is moving things into a new direction. Having been the club Treasurer for several years, he is well aware of the financial frame work of the RARC and has brought that knowledge to his new office. Historically, our club has been blessed with many good past Presidents who have maintained a vigorous and positive direction for the club to pursue, Drew is continuing that tradition. So far, he has adopted the best practices of previous Presidents with the added interest of moving the club forward financially. His methods are simple, direct, and encouraging. His goal of making the club more hands on in its events is not new, but his emphasis is. We can look forward to a very active and all encompassing year. This event is a good start to that end.

There were several new things that were brought forward to make this all happen: Drew Neve AB9NE deployed and operated his remarkable QRP station, Scott Cross KB3MKD set up his new antenna mast and along with his HF station were most impressive in their design and capability, Dave Peters KB9EWG had an amazing array of new QRP devices that he used, Dan Abts AB9TS lended his expertise in setting up wire antennas, Greg Miller K9LEC brought the club's Kenwood HF rig and power supply for our use, and I brought my new EcoFlow River Pro power station that was set up with and powered the club's Kenwood station. So you see, we had several different types of stations in operation at this event.



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO

- *Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net*
- *Please send some classifieds*
- *We need some classifieds*

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 Cresent, 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 Perkins Restaurant, 9428 State Road 16, Onalaska, WI 54650 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 Saturday's 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.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

Vice-President.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

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

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

Trustee.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email...kb9ewg@gmail.com

Trustee.....Bill Wood KE9XQ Email...ke9xq@charter.net

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