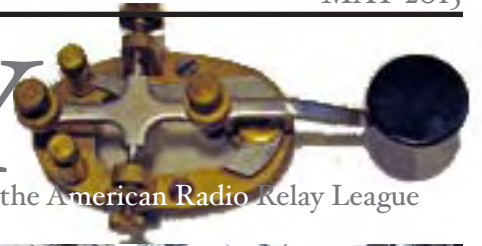


T H E R I V E R L A N D A M A T E U R R A D I O C L U B

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 repeater.

Club meetings

7 p.m., Tuesday, meet
ing room 1, lower level,
Gundersen/Lutheran La
Crosse. **Elmer session** 6
p.m.

RARC Web page

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



As they have for years, walkers walked and raised record amounts of money for Walk MS La Crosse, and as *they* have for years, members of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club followed walkers closely providing communications support for the event. RARC members manning radios included: Roger Reader, KA9BKK; Dan Helgeson; Duane Cadmus, KD9AXP; Carl Thurston, KC9HDS; Bob Wilson, N9LZK; Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE; Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ; Dave Peters, KB9EWG. Holcomb chaired the club's effort.

Image by Dave Peters, KB9EWG

US Islands challenge beckons

Fans of portable ham radio are encouraged to grab their equipment and head for the water as part of the new "One Day Getaway," sponsored by the US Islands Awards Program. The annual event will debut Sat., May 9, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC Friday evening to Saturday evening. Founded in 1994, US Islands promotes portable ham radio operation from islands in all bodies of water lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and coastal islands in US territorial waters.

"US Islands is a great way to go on a mini DXpedition without spending a lot of money," said US Islands Awards Manager Jay Chamberlain, NS4J. "Discovering islands in your own backyard and setting up a station outdoors is always a good time. If hams have only operated outdoors during Field Day, we offer another route to get

outside and enjoy portable ham radio in a different way."

The One Day Getaway is an on air activity, not a contest. No scores are tallied, and no prizes are awarded. Contacts may be made with any station. US Islands offers achievement awards for both island activators and island chasers, including a certificate for your first US Islands activation.

While there are some 2,800 islands on the US Islands list, there are more than 17,000 islands within the US. Among the locally activated islands are French, Goose, Isle La Plume, and Gillette Houston Co.

Complete information on the US Islands Program, a how to guide for One Day Getaway participants, and a list of currently qualified islands are available on the group's web site, www.usislands.org/

The next VE license testing will be 9 a.m. Sat. May 2, at the Church of Christ, 3506 28th St. South, La Crosse. It is across 28th Street from Hintgen School.

Register at least five days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783-0723 or readers@centurytel.net.



RARC communicators for the La Crosse MS Walk April 25 were, L-R, Roger Reader, KA9BKK; Dan Helgeson; Duane Cadmus, KD9AXP; Carl Thurston, KC9HDS; Bob Wilson, N9LZK; Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE; Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ; Dave Peters, KB9EWG.

President's Frequency Modulation

By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ



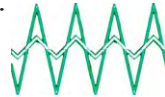
Well my radio lost its wheels. Yup you read that right, my 2 meter Kenwood lost its wheels. Lucky for me I was close to home when it happened. What I mean by this is my truck that I have my 2 meters in destroyed a wheel bearing and needs new brakes all around so now it sets on the car hoist waiting for me to correct all of the issues. Because of this I find that I miss that radio when I have to drive the other car to work or wherever. I don't talk a lot while I am driving but I do have it

on and make a call now and then. Now that it sits in the truck on the hoist it feels like when you leave the house and realize you forgot your watch. Well I will be without it for a while because it will take some time for me to get the work done.

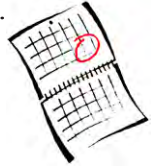
All is well in the Ham Shack though. Got more of the grounding complete and put up a new 2 meter antenna 40 feet up. I had been using a mag mount on the roof of the shop, which worked okay but it would tip over occasionally. I am not much into climbing up onto the roof to tip it back up. I know what it feels like to fall off that roof and once is enough. From now on I want to make things that can be reached or taken down from the ground.

Club activities will start heating up now that the warmer weather is here. The club is looking for any ideas for programs at the regular meeting and anyone is welcome to come and share their expertise. Learning from others is always fun so if you have something to share bring it forward.

I also want to know if anyone would like to try the hosting of the Sunday Night Net. Don't be shy, just let me know. I am willing to work with you on learning the ropes off the air. If after that you still don't feel comfortable you don't have to do it or just try it one night and see where it goes. This is an enjoyable activity so come and join in.



Calendar



Sat. May 2

♦ Festival Foods Grandad Half Marathon communication support, 7 a.m., Riverside Park, La Crosse.

♦ Ozaukee Radio Club Hamfest, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Columbia St. Mary's Center W67N866 Washington Ave, Cedarburg.

♦ RARC license testing, 9 a.m., Church of Christ, 3506 28th St. South, La Crosse. Register at least five days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783 0723 or readers@centurytel.net.

Tue. May 5

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

Fri-Sun May 15-17

♦ Dayton Hamvention, <http://hamvention.org/>

Sun. May 31

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

Sat. June 27

♦ ARRL Field Day

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

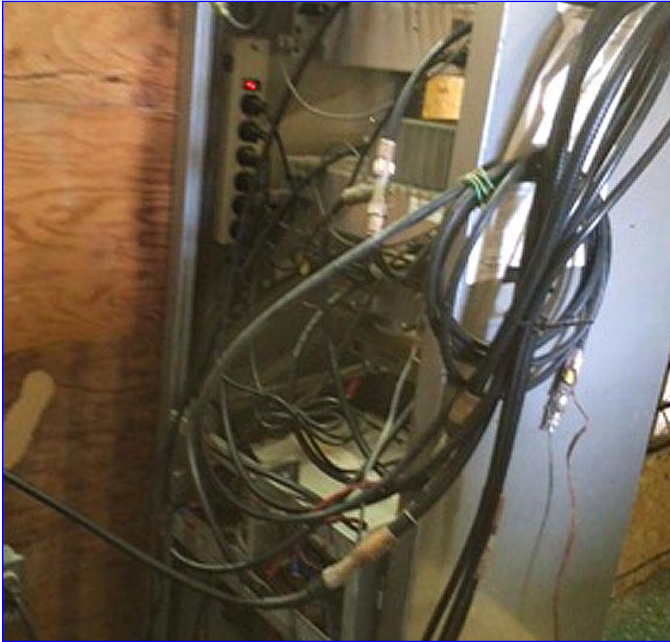


Image by Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

440 back on-line

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Back on a dreary March day, Dan Abts, AB9TS, gave me my first tour of the 440 repeater (444.475 PL 131.8) as we went to find out why it was off line. Everything seemed to be in good order. After toggling the power switch and checking the fuses, it came back on line. Having accomplished that, we inspected the site and found a couple of antennas that had broken off and were laying in the weeds. We then carefully examined the state of the 440's antenna and Dan made the observation that if we could move it up to the top of the tower were the stub mast of a broken antenna still exists, we probably would solve the transmission problems that have plagued it for so long. All that we need to accomplish this is an added piece of feed line, a coupler or two, and a climber. My brother, who is an experienced, well equipped climber has climbed WXOW and WKBT towers is willing to consider climbing the tower and do the needed repairs/modifications.

Operating tip

This month's tip is for phone contesting: Use settings in your rig to get rid of as much low frequency speech content as you can. The lows burn TX power, but make no contribution to speech intelligibility. I set up my K3 TXEQ for max cut of the three lowest octave bands (50, 100, 200 Hz and 4 6 dB cut of the 400 Hz band. When I ran FT1000MPs, I set the audio bandwidth for 400 2,600 Hz." You can reset the response for casual operating after the contest. Most ham microphones have a peak in their response around 3 kHz to compensate for rolloff in the SSB filter.

One more challenge

By Bill Wood, KE9XQ

Get to know your goodies. I have a curious mind, It's weird in some ways, yet I love it, I can study and forget as fast as the next guy, but things still interest me. I find it an absolute wonderment to know a piece of wire can pick up information thousands of miles away. Ask yourself how many different ways can



you change the resistance of a piece of wire you're holding in your hand. I you can think of half a dozen different approaches then you are maybe in the same boat as I am in. I'll let you tell me how many different ways you can change it's resistance.

Do you understand how to change the losses you'll find in a transformer? I don't either, but I do have some pictures in my mind that might be on the right track, you see, the amazement of it all, keeps you going. Can you get FM on and AM radio? Why or why not, and if you do, what would you call it, and how good would the quality be? How does a TRF receiver work, what's the difference in the four or five oscillator circuits, and how would they be wired differently if they were transistors or tubes? I can learn some of this today, some tomorrow, and some next year, while I forgot half the stuff I learned last year. This hobby/service of ours is fascinating in so many different ways, you'll never run out of things to explore, and discover.

Did you know that most of the Astronauts are hams? Many of the satellites that are up there and were up there were built by hams? Did you know many kings, movie stars, actors singers and news paper people were/are hams? Much of the electronics inventions and innovations in the last century were helped on or done by the Amateur? Get your thinking cap on and start imagining how to build that better mouse trap.

One more thought: You don't suppose Amateur spectrum exists just because big brother has a soft spot for you do you? No, much of what we have had to be fought for, and reasoned out so Uncle Sam would give us the space needed. They want talented people out there in case of emergencies and in case of war electronics experts to help in whatever void needs filling at the moment. We are needed as backups, are needed as technically minded people. Sure, international good will and a dozen other aspects enter the picture, but if you want to be a good scout you are not going to settle for second best, you are going to want to learn about that little whatchamightcallit and be ready if the need were to arise. Chances are it will never come to that, but it is nice to know we have over 600,000 ready will ing and able to handle just what the doctor might order.

From dormant to dashing

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

After the usual long winter, we all look forward to the advent of spring. All too often, spring is very short lived, with summer hot on its heels. This year has been somewhat less hurried. We do have spring albeit a wet one. It is a relief after the frozen days of winter. The anticipation of the coming of spring has kept us alive all winter long with the prospect of warmer weather and preparations for Field Day. Every year it is pretty much the same thing: We end winter with the determination to begin early preparations for Field Day, only to become entranced with the finer weather and the prospect of relaxing and enjoying it. The result is we find ourselves dashing around like mad trying desperately to get everything ready for Field Day and when the day comes, we are forced to accept the fruits of our lack of labor.

We always manage to pull the fat out of the fire in time to have a respectable Field Day effort. We always seem to have a good time, and sometimes we even are mildly competitive in the number of QSOs that are logged. The same scenario rolls out every time. Most of our members are rather indifferent about Field Day in general and absolutely opposed to entering into anything that sounds like it might be operating, especially if there is some sort of competition associated with it since most of our club members feel that the main thrust of our organization is "social." This is not to be construed to

mean that they are Socialists, far from it. In fact one might be able to wake some of them up with such a suggestion. No, our club's social nature is a result of many years of inactivity and lack of ambition. Thankfully there are a few newer members who haven't been bitten by the bug of indifference. There may be hope for the future of Field Day and our club.

Meantime, there are a few stalwart members of our club who are determined to do a presentable job of preparing and holding Field Day. Unless there is a new venue presented fairly soon, we will be having it in the same location as the last few years. Little will have changed in the way of those in charge, the menu, available beverages, and of course, the type of equipment used. It is good that there remain a few members who continue to fight the good fight to ensure that Field Day is successful. We will probably not score highly in the logging of QSOs but there are a number of new Hams who are eager and willing to give it a go so perhaps their zeal will pull us through. One can only hope.

The run up to Field Day should be interesting. There might be a surprise or two just to keep things interesting. These are not certain, as the details need to be worked out yet. That is the nature of surprises generally. The biggest surprise will come if and when everything comes together and all concerned unite to have a good time.

If that can come to pass, then we will most definitely have had a successful Field Day. For that to happen though, we will need to start the mad dash to Field Day soon, as none of the elements of Field Day happen by themselves. It takes a lot of preparation and hard work. The more that the Hams dash forth with effort, the more well refined the whole operation will be. There are a lot of Hams in our club who are satisfied with a minimal effort and a minimal result, and that is to be expected with a club that is "social" in nature. Maybe that's okay. Maybe not. Ask the new Hams that are trying to establish themselves. Ask some of the not so new Hams that have to establish themselves. These might be part of the surprise of Field Day as they are roused from their sleep and dash off to rack up a pile of QSOs and let the whole world know that they haven't rolled over yet. So let's all dash off to Field Day and have a great one.



Do NOT miss Field Day

ARRL Field Day is the flagship emergency/disaster/public event training exercise. Miss it at great expense to your annual training regimen. This year it will be held June 27-28 at W7755 A. Johnson Rd., Holmen.

ARRL Field Day is the

most popular annual on the air event in the US and Canada. More than 35,000 radio amateurs operate from remote locations, ideally outdoors in a true field.

The experience and training gained from transporting your radios and antennas to

the field, setting them up, using them as you would in an emergency/disaster/public event, troubleshooting problems, deriving efficiencies and effectiveness, and learning lessons and fixes to be applied for the next time, are more valuable than any other train-

ing exercise, class or manual.

Activate for June's Field Day and make yourself a better public service field operator. See the June issue of QST as well as The Key for more information on this year's Field Day rules, scoring and, importantly, the menu.