

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 repeater.

Club meetings
7 p.m., Tuesday, meeting
room 1, lower level, Gundersen/Lutheran La Crosse.
Elmer session 6 p.m.

MS Walk crew



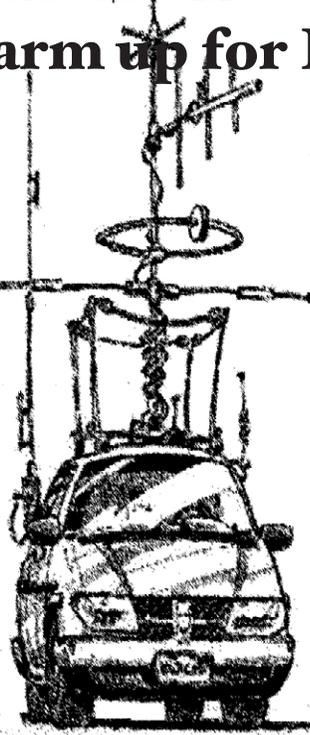
Riverland Amateur Radio Club members pose before helping with communication for the April 23 La Crosse MS Walk. Volunteers included (L-R): Roger Reader, KA9BKK, Duwayne Cadmus, KD9AXP, Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD, Carl Thurston, KC9HDS, Bill Wood, KE9XQ, Dan Halverson, Dave Peters, KB9EWG, Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, Dan Abts, AB9TS, and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

ARRL VHF contest a warm up for Field Day

Lots of RF will be generated on 6 meters and up the weekend of June 11-13 during the ARRL VHF contest. It is a chance for all Hams to play on the air waves and it can be a great warm up for Field Day. While many amateurs think of the VHF+ bands as a "local" band for public service, emergency communications or even a bit of fun on FM repeaters, weak signal VHF enthusiasts know better. Even with a modest station, it's possible to work hundreds, or even thousands of miles, on the VHF bands during a good opening.

The weekend is a great time to try 6 or 2 meters. Because of the contest, many stations will be on the air, and this, coupled with the interesting propagation possibilities and possible DX openings, makes for a great weekend.

Getting on the VHF bands is easy. Most long distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB that means horizontally polarized antennas. You will need a radio that can transmit in those modes. Most newer HF transceivers have 6 meters built



in, and several also come with 2 meters and 70 centimeters, too, such as Yaesu's new FT 991 or its familiar FT 857 and FT 897 models.

A dipole on 6 meters will work quite well during a decent opening. They're easy to make and less than 10 feet long. Throw it up in a tree as high as you can and you'll be in business.

Because VHF antennas are smaller than their HF counterparts, portable operation is simple: You can operate from your favorite hilltop, camp site or any location with 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.

Possible change in club business. See page 3

President's Frequency Modulation

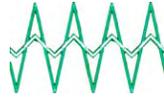
By Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD

Greetings! A lot has happened within our club and within the ham community and there will be a lot more to come as the weather improves. We started out with storm spotter training and providing communication for the MS walk. It was a success in that there were no injuries to report. The executive board has been conducting planning some change to improve our club as best as we are able. I have been getting feedback from Hams and am getting even more motivated to make positive changes and improvements to the club.

Next up is our participation in the Granddad Half Marathon May 7. It has been a fun event for those of us who have provided communication support. There is a great need for more hams to volunteer. We are also starting to see our annual Swapfest coming closer and closer in time. It will be August 13 so be prepared to unload your old gear and perhaps gain some stuff new to you.

Another important part of our Ham summer is the club picnic. I will be naming some committees and committee chairs soon, an important one is, of course, the picnic committee. It's extremely important for the RARC because it gives us a great time to socialize and eat!

Next I remind everyone about being involved in a net or doing an activity with a net. I touched on this a month or so ago and still find it very important to bring it up again. Just some tips to be more productive in a net is that the net control is just that, THE control of the net. In a lot of cases when there is an event, the person in charge may have plans of how we do things and it is the net's responsibility to stay within the plans of those in charge. Arguing or challenging the net control is not advised or professional. At times the net control may make mistakes, but it's their responsibility to report to the person in charge and to keep order. With the help of those participating, a net can run smoothly, making us look good and professional. Speaking clearly is, in my opinion, the most important aspect of communicating. 'Can't do much if the message is not understood. Very important, especially in an emergency or potential emergency, is to keep all traffic to a minimum. Keeping it crisp, under 30 seconds, is plenty and just giving the essential information is plenty. Leave it up to net control to ask for more information if needed.



Calendar

Tue. May 3

• Riverland Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., Gundersen La Crosse, LLI, 7th & South Ave. Elmer Session 6 p.m.

Sat. May 14

VE Testing, 9 a.m., Church of Christ, 3506 28th St. South, La Crosse. Must register in advance with Roger Reader, 608 783 0723 or readers@centurytel.net.

Sun. May 22

• 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

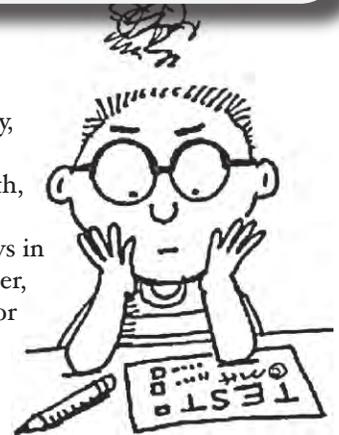
• ARRL June VHF Contest. www.arrl.org/june_vhf

Fri-Sun, June 22-24

• **ARRL Field Day**

There will be **license testing** at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 14, at the 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.



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. 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

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.

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.

Why bother to look at the sky?

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Now that we have the first few events under our belts, maybe we can start to concentrate on preparing for the annual Field Day weekend. Before we get to that we have the importance of Storm Spotter training. Yes, the Saint Patty's Day parade was fun and we look forward to Field Day, but the Storm Spotter training session hosted by Todd Shea and the guys from the National Weather Service is much more important. Even though they seem to form a rather light motif with their fine oration and multimedia displays, their message remains preeminent as one of the most important activity for Hams of the area. It would be very easy to not attend the training sessions and to ignore the weather conditions as they happen, but the results can be catastrophic. Beyond the possible dire consequences that can result from serious weather conditions, there is the benefit of meeting other people involved with Storm Spotting.

Remember that only a fairly small percentage of Storm Spotters are from the Ham community. There are also members of the Police and Fire Departments participating as well as a lot of just plain concerned citizens. True, it often is the Ham operators that carry the torch with communications especially when there are severe storms resulting in high winds that damage the land lines and when the situation increases traffic on the cell phones, making it impossible to get through to the Nation Weather Service

with any of the usual methods.

Every year the training sessions get better than the last year's. This year was the best on record. The oral presentation was both informative and entertaining. It kept the attendees on task and alert as the session progressed through the displays of the various cloud formations and their significance. Some of the videos presented were of actual storms from all over the country that graphically portrayed what storm clouds, including tornados looked like and what kind of havoc can result from them. The workshop lasted about two hours but the time passed quickly and there weren't any noticeable participants who where anxious to leave. To say that the program was riveting would be fairly accurate, when it was over there were many there who remained in their seats as if waiting for more.

We are very fortunate to have such a well trained and experienced group of meteorologists on staff at our local National Weather Service Office. Their knowledge and dedication is to be admired and their frank assessment of the importance of the local Storm Spotter's was both gratifying and intriguing. When ever one's efforts are recognized and appreciated, it is nice, but when professionals admit that they are unable to cover all of the area because of certain limitations it is especially appreciated. It seems that due to the fact that the Doppler radar is located on top of



Granddad's Bluff, and that it works basically in a line of sight direction, there is a lot that can be happening in our valley that the Weather Service can't see. It is because of this that it is so crucial to have Storm Spotters on the ground at various points to observe and report what is actually happening.

This was the case in 2011 when a tornado ripped through south La Crosse, doing substantial damage to property and also to the land line phone system. Because the land line phone system was rendered unusable, there was a large surge of traffic on the cell phone system, overloading it as well, so for a substantial period of time the only real communications with the Nation Weather Service was via Amateur Radio operators on the scene. If there was ever a time when you wondered why you ever got involved with Amateur Radio and what value it has to the community, that should have answered that. Because there are those in the community who feel the need to help in these times, be they Hams or not, everyone can rest a bit easier because of their vigilance. This is why we should all keep an eye on the sky.



Show your support for Field Day plus be in haute fashion with your official ARRL Field Day Tee Shirt. Orders will be taken at the club's May 3 meeting. Shirts are \$15. Color is brown or tan. See Bob, W9LSE, to place your order.

Things to do

Spring in the northern hemisphere! A good time for some antenna work. Don't forget to watch the weather and not take any chances when it comes to lightning.

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

On April 3, 1985, at 7:40 P.M. the regular monthly meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Craig Goldbeck. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as read from the Badger State Smoke Signals. The treasurers report was approved.

Report from the Repeater Committee: Because of the emergency power back up test that was attempted on Wednesday, March 20, it was discovered that the battery charger was not keeping the battery up to the full power. The charger connections are suspected to not be making contact. Temporarily, while the old battery is being charged and tested, a new battery has been installed.

Report from the Swapfest Committee: John, W9MMP, brought up the question on how large should the swapfest be allowed to grow, this year and in the future. It was the general feeling of the members present that we work toward continued growth and a better swapfest yearly.

Old Business:

The Public Relations Director of the Valley View Mall has been contacted about using an area around the mall a site for Field Day. They have no objections at this time about us using it.

New Business:

A committee was set up to study other Field Day sites. Volunteers were: Craig, N9ETD - Nook, K9EGD - Dic, K0JYB - and Gary, KA9NDF.

A motion was made that our guest, Feroz Ghouse, 4S7FG, from Sri Lanka be given a one year membership to our club. The motion was seconded and passed. We welcome Feroz to our membership.

A motion was made and seconded that any expenses that may occur on the repeater be drawn from the general treasury per the Repeater Committees discretion. The motion was passed.

Feroz thanked the members for the membership and as a token of friendship between his country and ours, he presented to the club a gold tray.

The total members present at this meeting was 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

The program was presented by Kent, W9LZQ on the local A.R.E.S. with guest speakers Joe Rendler, La Crosse County Emergency Government and Bruce Zimmerman of the National Weather Service.

Respectfully Submitted
 Greg A. Miller
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Riverland Amateur Radio Club

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE::::::::::

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Greg Miller | KA9FDZ |
| John Carroll | W9MMP |
| Gary Countryman | KA9NDF |
| John Markos | KA9LQF |
| Dick Low | K0JYB |
| William A. Klienschmidt | KA9SOI |
| Craig Goldbeck | N9ETD |
| Gary Mattie | KA9RQY |
| Van Elston | WA9FID |
| Herman Ludvik | W9HJV |
| Bob Colleran | W9JLH |
| Mike Nelson | KB9RJ |
| Bill Winder | K9EGQ |
| Tom Goltz | N9ETB |
| Tim Tippery | KA0ATU |
| Dave Bissen | N0AJY |
| Ray Wakeen | WA9HHM |
| Duane Fruechte | W9HWQ |
| Steve Mrachek | N9CEY |
| Ron Reed | KA9ISV |
| Dallas Miller | K9LEC |
| L.F. (Nook) Bentzen | K9EGD |
| Ken Weigel | N9CDT |
| Gary Webb | N9DHO |
| Art Osborn | W0JDC |
| Hugh Barker | KA0FJZ |
| Feroz Ghouse | 4S7FG |
| Gary Simenson | KA9BRA |
| Kent Helmen | W9LZQ |

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:::::

- | | |
|------------------|--------|
| Chad Miller | |
| Joe Rendler | |
| Hank Oehminger | KA0HWQ |
| Mike Craig | KA0DEV |
| Glenn Whitlock | N0BBW |
| Jerome Brokowski | WA9HCZ |
| Bruce Zimmerman | |

Slurp or swim

Waiter: "May I help you with your soup, sir?"

Diner: "What do you mean? I don't need any help."

Waiter: "Sorry, sir. Judging from the sound, I thought you might wish to be dragged ashore."

--Edgerton Reporter

Club Executive Board meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

King Street Kitchen, La Crosse

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

There is a report that an old Ham may donate his gear. The club would accept it for use by the club, as loaner material for new Hams and liquidate for club cash at swap.

TREASURER'S REPORT

"Not significant change" Two memberships plus 0.19 interest Miller reported the club has 22 paid memberships.

NEW MEMBERS LETTER

Board members will study and collaborate to produce a letter of welcome.

SWAP

Miller reported the swap has been approved by the ARRL. A flyer promoting the swap will be sent to regional clubs.

Letters e mail were sent to area high school and middle school technology teachers telling about the RARC and asking them to help recruit students interested in our kind of technology.

BY LAWS

Seaquist prepared proposed by law changes that would shift club business to the executive committee, freeing general membership meetings for programs and socializing. He will present it to the May meeting for June or July vote.

ARES RACES

Holcomb discussed the test tornado drill and difficulties with doubling and lack of brevity. The board agreed

there should be training of net procedures on the Sunday night net and at the next club meeting.

MEETING FACILITIES

Abts has attempted to contact officials at the La Crosse Family Y and the First Congregational Church to see if there would be meeting places that have radio contact ability and where club members may bring food. He continues the search.

SHACK TALKS

Abts and Seaquist prepared an outline as a suggestion and help for those presenting shack talks.

SHIRTS

Holcomb will investigate getting club shirts as well as vests for emergency communication.

COMMITTEES

Board discussed what committees the club needs. Holcomb will meet with members to enlist their help as members of those committees. Some committee needs are:

- VE Testing
- Public Service Events Program
- Repeater
- Sunday Night Net
- Picnic
- Fundraising
- Operating

More Hams, grayer Hams

The total number of U.S. Amateurs has continued to grow steadily each year since the FCC license class restructure in 2007. As of Sept. 30, the number of licensees reached a new all time high of 731,974.

New Amateur licenses issued are 11 percent above the typical totals from previous years, Up graded licenses are up seven percent compared to the same period last year.

However, there is concern that younger people are not entering the hobby. For instance, "there is very little survey participation in the CQ World Wide Contest from those under 40 years of age," said Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q. More than 900 of the nearly 1500 respondents from North America were at least 60 years old.

Any look around a Ham radio club meeting confirms the findings.



Riverland Amateur Radio Club members pose before the La Crosse MS Walk. (L-R): Roger Reader, KA9BKK, Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, and Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD,