

THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club WR9ARC



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.

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

Repeater
146.970 PL 131.8

RARC Net
8:00 PM Sunday on
the 146.970
Repeater

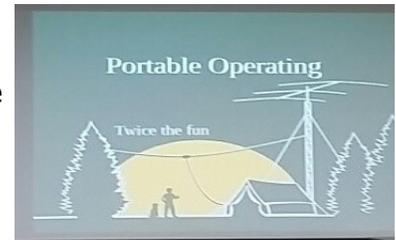
Club Meetings:

Trustee Meeting
3rd Tuesday 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
1st Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 PM,
Gunderson Clinic
conference room 1
in the lower level.

On the go with QRP ...by Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

At the April RARC meeting, Bob Seaquist, W9LSE did a presentation on operating with light weight gear and at a QRP level. He was very enthusiastic, well prepared, and his style of presentation was visually attractive and very informative. He compared working QRP to trout fishing; it can be maddeningly frustrating, but when you make a distant contact, its like landing a big trout with a very light weight rod. He described what it was like to operate in several National Parks in the Southwest, including; Grand Canyon, Brice Canyon, Arches, Death Valley, and Zion in Utah. His talk revolved around the use of simple, easily transported and set up antennas such as end fed wire antennas, dipoles, and random wire ones made from very light wire and strung in trees.



Now, I must admit that my being a Hapless Ham who is plagued constantly with Gremlins, operating QRP, although intriguing, is probably beyond my attention span and my ability to cope with frustration. I find it a challenge to work with 100 Watts and my various antenna arrays that require constant tinkering to make them work. Obviously, Bob has worked the kinks out of his operation to such an extent that he is extremely successful in his pursuit of DX with 10 Watts or less.

Continued on page 4



Packed house for the talk on portable operating given by Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

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 consists of news and information of interest to the Amateur Radio community as a whole. Guest editorials and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome.

Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Greg Miller at KA9FOZ@gmail.com.

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 there 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 LaCrescent, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.

Below are listed your RARC 2019 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS
Email...ab9ts@yahoo.com

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

Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS
Email...rckolter@gmail.com

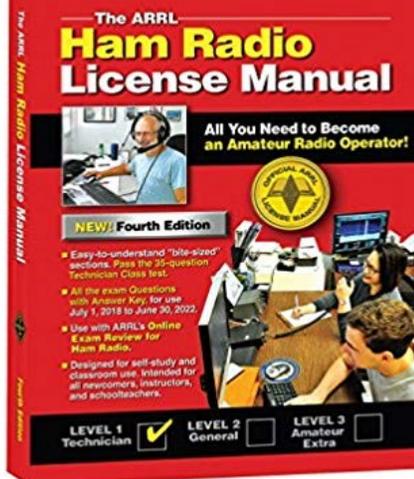
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Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ
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Email...eistim68@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC
Email...ka9foz@gmail.com



TEST SESSIONS

Test dates for 2019 for any new licenses or upgrades are:

May 4

August 10

September 7

The RARC trailer has gone green as the pictures show. Four solar panels put out up to 24 volts at 10w and a converter that holds a constant 14.4 volts to keep the battery charged. The battery supplies voltage to a Kenwood 2M/440 transceiver as well as a Kenwood 570D HF Transceiver.



The Passing of a Gentle Giant...by Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

It is always hard to hear of another Silent Key. We have lost a great many members over the years. All are missed, some more than others, some went quietly, some not so much. I didn't know Robert Bruce Boomer MD very well. I enjoyed his presence over the past couple of years when he, and his wife Bobbette came to our Thursday morning breakfast get togethers at Ardie's Restaurant. He was always cheerful and had many stories to tell and he loved to recite poetry that he remembered from his youth. It was known that he was a Medical Doctor and an Electronic Engineer, but that isn't saying much. These are worthy accomplishments on a simple level. But there was nothing simple about "RB" as he was known by many, but known well by few. He served in the US Navy as an enlisted man during World War II. Later, he became an Officer attaining the rank of Commander during the Korean War.



He was interested in everything. His knowledge and experiences were of an epic scale. He was truly a "Gentle Giant." In spite of his vast knowledge and experience, he never flaunted it to anyone, but it was readily apparent that he was arguable "The Smartest Man in the room," where ever he was. He wasn't just an MD, as a medical student, he was accepted by many very prestigious medical schools including Harvard, Yale, and Edinburgh Scotland. He chose Harvard. I'm told that although he attended Harvard, he seldom went to class as he was self taught and self motivated, an avid reader with a very sharp mind and a memory to match. While his classmates were working hard to get through the curriculum, RB was baking bread!

Never satisfied to leave things as they were, he was always coming up with ways to improve things. As an Ophthalmologist in Palo Alto, CA he was one of the first in the nation to use Laser Surgery. He tirelessly investigated everything that came into his view. I learned most of what I know about RB at the "Celebration of Life" ceremony for him held recently. This ceremony was held in spite of the fact that RB had requested nothing special was to take place after his passing. That was so typical of RB, but his family wouldn't hear of it, so a very nice ceremony was held with full Military Honors, including a flag ceremony, a 21 gun salute, and a Highland Piper playing "Amazing Grace." RB would probably felt that all of this was too much, but his family did it in his honor anyway. The turn out of friends, relatives, and acquaintances was amazing. The memorabilia of his life on display was very impressive indeed. In addition to the usual photos of him, his family put together a slideshow video of many of the places that he visited and those who he was with. Being a Scot by heritage, he had several different kilts that he enjoyed wearing on special occasions, one of which was on display along with the various accouterments that completed the ensemble.

The stories told by his Daughters, Son, and Sons-in-laws were amazing and humorous. All agreed that he was a fantastic husband, father, and friend to his family. RB was obviously a very well loved, liked, and friended man. He also accomplished much in the realm of Amateur Radio, a tireless DXer and an all encompassing Elmer to every Ham needing help, that alone would have been enough for many, but he was so much more. He loved the outdoors, nature, and natural things. There is so much about him that I am sure that I will never know. I came away from that event feeling better to have learned what I did while there, but sad to think that I didn't really know much about him while he was alive. It happens so often that you don't really begin to understand and to know someone until it is too late. So it is with RB. Robert Bruce "RB" Boomer, you are gone but not forgotten. 73!



He has honed his operating skills to such a fine point that he is able to create pile ups on several different bands at various locations and at many special event type events. He has worked in many different types of events such as SOTA (Summits on the Air), NPOTA (National Parks on the Air), and IOTA (Islands on the Air). In addition to working many National Parks in the Southwest, he has also worked from locations in the Virgin Islands.

His talk was accompanied by a display of the equipment that he uses in this pursuit, including Elecraft rigs of very small and light weight design, along with various wire antennas that he uses and small battery packs that he powers his rigs with. He also ran a video that he made that was very professional in production and fascinating visually. It made the whole concept of working National Parks with QRP rigs most attractive and fun. Bob's easy manner of telling how he has worked so many contacts to so many different countries using these methods, was inspiring and tempting to all in attendance. Many of the Hams present asked relevant questions and some expressed their experiences with QRP and other means and methods related to working DX stations. Bob listened to and responded to all who had questions and made it easy for everyone to participate in the discussion.

The turn out for this meeting was large and the presentation was enthusiastically received. It is good to see that there is so much interest and enthusiasm in our club members. It looks like things are getting more and more intriguing to more and more of our members. For some time it was thought that things were in decline for the Riverland Amateur radio Club, but with the influx of new younger members, interest in doing things has risen quite a bit. New equipment has been acquired by the club and many more events are planned to implement the use of new and advanced methods of operation. I'm sure that some of our members will take up the banner of QRP and run with it too.

It was good to have Bob do this presentation. It encouraged us to try new things and to reach out in new ways to the world of Amateur Radio. There is a renewed interest in actively participating in events, as a result of presentations such as this. I for one am glad to see this as our Executive Board is working hard to improve the presence and presentation of Amateur Radio in our club and community. It is presentations like this that reinvigorates our members and encourages them to get more active in our events. This is shaping up to be a very good year. The excitement is back and that is good! 73



ARRL Awards QSL Card Checking at Hamfest

The ARRL field checking program provides League members the opportunity to have QSL cards for all ARRL awards checked locally without having to mail their cards to League headquarters in Newington. Mike Cizek, WØVTT, of St Charles MN is a DXCC Card Checker and is eligible to check cards for all ARRL awards; DXCC, VUCC, WAC and WAS. Mike will be at the Riverland ARC Hamfest in Onalaska WI on 10 August at the ARRL table.

Complete information on the ARRL awards and Card Checking programs are on the League web site:

For DXCC: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc>

For VUCC: <http://www.arrl.org/vucc>

For WAC: <http://www.arrl.org/wac>

For WAS: <http://www.arrl.org/was>

For further information on any ARRL awards and the application process, please contact Mike at w0vtt@arrl.net. His complete contact info can be found on the ARRL web site here: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-card-checker-master-list>

Getting Things Done...By Car Thurston, KC9HDS

Have you ever wondered how things get done? I'm talking about the business end of the RARC. For some time now the business end of things at the RARC has been handled by the Executive Board. This has not always been the case. In the past nearly everything that was done had to be voted upon by the entire membership. That method, though democratic in principal, proved often to be ungainly. Anything that was brought up to the membership resulted in one of two things. Either it spawned a continuous debate that made it impossible to get anything done, or someone would block the whole idea as unworkable, and so it was. This is why for so long, so little got accomplished and the RARC languished. Seeing that something needed to be done, a committee was formed see what could be done to get things moving again. Thanks to the dedication of those on that committee it was decided that in order to have a more enjoyable membership meeting, all of the club's business should go through an Executive Committee. Thus freeing up the members so that the membership meeting could be more presentation oriented and not bogged down with the machinery of the business of the club. It would seem that this should have made things work more smoothly, but it took some time for the Executive Board to figure out how to make it work.

Our current Executive Board has made it a point to limit discussions and maximize activity thus progress is once again being made. Since so many of the current board members are relatively new to Ham Radio and our club, there is less negative overtones at our meetings. Resulting in more new ideas and less stumbling blocks along the way. Since this Executive Board's election, we have gained a lot of new things that make our events and our meetings more lively and interesting. Examples of this are the ease with which the Board was able to improve our fund raising by establishing a Raffle License with the State of Wisconsin, The choosing and procuring Emergency Communication vests with our club logo on them, and just recently, we have purchased and installed solar panels and a battery in our Emergency Trailer, along with a built in operating station, resulting in an Emergency Trailer that is ready to go at all times, so that it truly is an Emergency Communication Trailer.

This board gets things done! There is little rancor in it and when a lively discussion does occur, the result is consensus rather than divisiveness. Oh yes there are strong feeling at each meeting, but the goal is always to grow the club and increase its public image as a Service Club that does provide a needed service. The team work that is always there is a delightful change from the way things were when the business of the club was held as part of the membership meeting itself. This is not to say that the general membership has no say in these things, all members are always welcome to sit in on our Executive Board meetings and it is still a requirement for the majority of the membership to vote on any purchases that the Board desires that exceeds \$500.00. This frees up the Board to do the things that need to be done to make the club more viable and keep it moving forward. There are some things that the Board is researching that will require the approval of the general membership, but the Board will examine all options and present to the membership with a reasonable offering when they think that it is needed. The Executive Board is committed to doing the best possible job for our club and for the community. We are united in the pursuit of expanding the services of our club. Not only is this a good idea, but it is what we must do to maintain our Special Services designation with the ARRL, and with our commitment with the National Weather Service and the Weather Ready Nation. Added to all of that, the Board is determined to add in more Special Events and other fun things that enable our members to enjoy Ham Radio even more. Every member is encouraged to add their ideas and opinions that will further these goals. Don't hesitate to let your Board members know what you think needs to be done. Together we go forward.



Can Indoor Antennas Work? Yes!...By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, a reader asked:

I am studying your “No Nonsense” book as I prep for the Technician test. I am also learning CW. I am going to buy a Yaesu FT 450D as my first radio, and I want to use an indoor antenna as my first antenna. What do you recommend for CW?

I replied:

To be honest, I’ve never had a lot of luck with indoor antennas. Don’t let that dissuade you, though. I have worked many hams with indoor antennas. Just recently, for example, I worked a guy who was using a Buddipole (<http://www.buddipole.com/>) inside his apartment.

If you have an attic, you could easily install a dipole up there. The ARRL web page on indoor antennas (<http://arrl.org/indoor-antennas>) notes:

“Attics are great locations for indoor antennas. For example, you can install a wire dipole in almost any attic space. Don’t worry if you lack the room to run the dipole in a straight line. Bend the wires as much as necessary to make the dipole fit into the available space.

....

“Ladder-line fed dipoles are ideal for attic use—assuming that you can route the ladder line to your radio without too much metal contact. In the case of the ladder-line dipole, just make it as long as possible and stuff it into your attic any way you can. Let your antenna tuner worry about getting the best SWR out of this system.”

There are plenty of remote tuners now, too. You could install a doublet with elements as long as you can make them, connect them directly to the remote tuner, and then run coax to your shack.

I have also worked guys who have used Slinky antennas inside a house. The advantage of using a Slinky is that it is electrically longer than a wire of the same length.

An attached garage might also make a good location for an indoor antenna. VE3SO, who I’ve worked several times, uses a magnetic loop antenna installed in his garage (<https://www.kb6nu.com/magnetic-loop-antenna-at-ve3so/>).

If you do a web search for “indoor amateur radio antennas,” you’ll get many more ideas. Here are a few that looked promising to me:

Indoor antenna for 7 Mhz (<http://www.iw5edi.com/ham-radio/37/indoor-antenna-for-7-mhz>)

An Indoor Reduced Size Rectangular Loop (<http://hamuniverse.com/k17jrindoorloop4010.html>)

Another option might be to load up your gutters! I’ve worked a couple of guy who use gutter antennas, including WA8KOQ (<https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-gutter-antenna-rac-contest-161-countries-worked/>) and K3DY (<https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-computer-virus-club-net-gutter-antenna/>).

This blog post garnered a couple of interesting comments. *K2MUN wrote*, “For many years I’ve used an attic mounted off-center fed 40 meter dipole. With an automatic antenna tuner and a 4:1 balun I’ve worked lots of dx with both qrp and, more easily, 100 watts! Certainly, outdoors is much superior but an attic is a nice location in bad weather making playing with your antenna a pleasure :-).”

John, KD0JPE, said, “If you have an attic available, check out the following 6-band coax trap-based antenna: <http://degood.org/coaxtrap/>. I constructed one of these 9 years ago and have had great results with it.

The bottom line is that indoor antennas can definitely work. They may take more work to put up than outside antennas, but as the saying goes, “Any antenna is better than no antenna.”



CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR MAY

April 28...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, KB9OFK.
May 5...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is David, KD9EPN.
May 7...Program Night at Gunderson Lutheran. Presentation on N3FJP logging software and the clubs Yaesu FT-857.
May 12...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Greg, K9LEC.
May 19...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Carl, KC9HDS.
May 26...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, KD9GVS.
June 2...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Kevin, KC9ZGD.
June 15...RARC Club Picnic.

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST

AUGUST 10, 2019 8:00 AM to

**Located in the Onalaska American Legion
731 Sand Lake Rd. Onalaska, WI 54650**

RARC CLUB PATCH ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ club patches to the address below. I have enclosed \$3.50 for each patch ordered.

Send patches to:

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send form and check to: RARC Box 621 Onalaska, WI. 54650



RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday April 15th, 2019 Executive Meeting

MINUTES

Call to order: 5:35 PM 2235 UTC

Members Present : Dan Abts AB9TS, David Peters KB9EWG, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Drew Neve AB9NE, Greg Miller K9LEC, Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD, Bill Wood KE9XQ, Bob Seaquist W9LSE

Approval of Minutes: March 19th 2019 minutes approved as written

Treasurer's Report: Available upon request from Drew AB9NE

Committee Reports:

+Repeater trustee updated paperwork submitted, Shawn waiting on confirmation

+MS Walk April 27– Everything should be in order for this event, we have enough sign-ups, will make use of Club radio, power supply, antenna, & feed line. Still need to line up a sag vehicle, KD9MLF may volunteer for this. Discussed using APRS for this event, but not enough time to set up and make sure everyone is familiar. Save this for next year's event.

+Rotary Lights – Shawn picked up check on 3-22 at Corky's Pizza

+Picnic June 15th – all set to go per Carl.

+Field Day 2019 – Porta-Potty reserved, and Bill talked with Mrs. Jostad. Kevin volunteered to be Safety Officer. Discussion ensued regarding operating plans, radios, antennas, and modes.

+Repeater Committee – Dan has been in contact with Van. Several e-mails back and forth have indicated we have several options on future plans for the 97 repeater equipment. A separate group consisting of Dan, Dave P. Bill, Carl, Shawn, and Rick will meet at a later date to be determined.

Old Business:

+Safety Vests – interested members who still want a vest should get together for single purchase to save on ARRL shipping costs.

+No updates on Club name badges

+Trailer update – Carl gave overview of recent additions of solar panel DC power set-up and permanent radio and antenna mounting. Antenna mounts bought at Stoughton Swap, one already installed.

New Business:

+Dan presented an antenna attenuator build project for fox hunting. Several signed up for this.

+Carl picked up a "Rig Runner 4005H" (power pole equipped power distribution block) at the Stoughton Swap as an addition to the Club trailer. Approval given as a Club purchase for the trailer.

Motion to Adjourn : 7:14 PM, 0014 UTC

