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## Bill Introduced to Designate April 18, 2022 as National Amateur Radio Operators Day

Arizona Congresswoman Debbie Lesko has reintroduced a resolution with bipartisan support to designate April 18, 2022, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day. Introduced on April 19, the measure recognizes the important contributions amateur radio operators have made. She introduced a similar bill in the last Congress.

"Throughout history, amateur radio operators have provided invaluable services to our communities," Lesko said in a news release. "I am proud to reintroduce this resolution to honor the important contributions amateur radio operators have made in Arizona and across our nation. Amateur radio has brought people together and has provided critical emergency communications during natural disasters. Amateur radio is a vital part of our nation's communications infrastructure."

Lesko said she was initially approached to introduce the resolution during the last Congress by then-12-year-old Raymond Anderson, N7KCB, of Peoria, Arizona.

As Lesko's resolution notes, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) designates each April 18 as World Amateur Radio Day, to recognize the founding of the IARU in 1925. She said her resolution would recognize the amateur radio community with a national day in the US. The resolution cites the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) for providing "invaluable emergency communications services following recent natural disasters, including, but not limited to, helping coordinate disaster relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Maria and other extreme weather disasters."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, praised the initiative. "The voluntary contributions of America's approximately 774,000 amateur radio operators in support of the critical communications infrastructure of the United States are rarely recognized," Roderick said. "Congresswoman Lesko's resolution is an important first step in correcting that oversight. On behalf of ARRL's members and all amateur radio operators, I commend Congresswoman Lesko for her support of amateur radio and her leadership in bringing deserved recognition of the 106+ years of amateur radio's substantial influence on the development of modern communications."

Lesko was joined by members of both parties as original cosponsors of the resolution. The list includes Representatives Robert Aderholt of Alabama; Julia Brownley of California; Kat Cammack of Florida; Paul Gosar of Arizona; Glenn Grothman, of Wisconsin; Vicky Hartzler of Missouri; Ashley Hinson of Iowa; Chris Jacobs of New York; Kaiali'i Kahele of Hawaii; Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania; Doug LaMalfa of California, and Daniel Webster of Florida.



## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello Club Members,

Well, April has been very busy for me, and I have had little to no time for the Ham Radio hobby.

That happens sometimes, and I like to think that “absence makes the heart grow fonder”.

⇒ Some upcoming Club events to mark on your calendar are the Picnic on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the #2 Stone Shelter at Rowe Park in Onalaska. It will be a bring your own meal event same as last year.

The Club will be hosting Field Day this summer as well. Also, we have the Onalaska Legion reserved for the Swapfest on August 7<sup>th</sup>. More info to come on these events.

⇒ Remember that the RARC Club e-mail “reflector” is out there for all Club members to post an announcement, information, or question related to Ham radio. The address is [members@rarc.qth.com](mailto:members@rarc.qth.com).

⇒ Also remember the Saturday morning “ragchew” on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 AM.

⇒ Our May program night meeting will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Our presenter this month is Tim Jacobson, N9CD. Tim is the author of a new book entitled “Quick, Practical Guide to DO-ING Ham Radio”. A reminder email with the meeting link will be forwarded a day or so before the meeting, and can also be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

⇒ Also, a reminder if you have any submissions for the Club Newsletter, The Key, please send them to our editor, Kelley Becker at [kellyLL23@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyLL23@hotmail.com).

⇒ Also for your on-line purchases, please remember to try [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and designate 0.5% of your purchase to be donated to your favorite charitable organization, the RARC! There is no cost to you and you get the same products, prices, and services as regular Amazon.

Feel free to contact me with any other comments or suggestions at [rkolter@gmail.com](mailto:rkolter@gmail.com).

73 for now,

Rick KD9GVS 

## Last Man Standing on a 80 Meter Loop

I had a long wire antenna strung across the slough behind my house for a couple of decades. It was close to 400 feet long and it worked well with a tuner especially on the low bands. It was running northeast to southwest to make the higher bands have lobes towards Europe. I worked quite a number of countries on 15 and 20 meters with it in addition to 40 and 80. The wire came down last year after the rope in the tree on the island end finally failed. I couldn't replace the rope until it came down since it was tangled in the tree.

After talking with a ham friend of mine who taught me about long wire antennas, he suggested I put up a loop antenna instead. This loop would be a full wavelength on a low band and used on a higher band with a tuner. After doing some research and finding a calculator for loop antennas, I decided that I could do a full wavelength for 80 meters in the trees on the bank behind my house. It would only be about 280 feet so I would have plenty of wire from the long wire. I decided to make it a vertical rectangle fed in the middle of one of the vertical sides. This should work very well on 80 meters and provide me with an antenna I could use with a tuner on 40 meters. I have a tower with a Yagi that works well on 10, 15 and 20 meters so I wasn't concerned how well it worked on those bands. I hung it on the south set of trees on the bank so that it wouldn't cross the view from the deck to the west. I have to try to keep my happy too!

I found two non-metal pulleys for \$2 each at Seven Rivers Surplus in Hokah to support the wire on the two upper corners. I wanted pulleys so the wire could move and not break when the trees moved with the wind. On the bottom corners I used curved 90 degree elbows that I could attach weights to in order for the wire to move in them as well. Due to the side branches on the trees I couldn't get it up as high as I hoped. Instead of a square 70 feet on each side it turned into a rectangle about 40 feet high. I had to trim a lot of branches to get the upper wire horizontal. I have a pruning saw blade attached to two 1x2x10 foot boards I used to cut a number of branches. It sagged in the middle so I added another rope over a tree in the middle to support it.

The plans called for a 54 foot length of 75 ohm coax attached to the loop then 50 ohm coax from there to the shack. I had some orange coax from the cable company but my wife wouldn't allow that unless I painted it black. I thought that might be problematic so I bought some black from my son's store. After putting on the proper connectors, I got out my NanoVNA antenna analyzer. It was resonant lower in the band than I wanted so I lowered the end with the feed point and trimmed a few feet off of it. It was still long so I trimmed it again and tested it again. I repeated this several more times until I got it just perfect. No tuner is needed for 80 meters. I switched it to 40 meters and tested it. The SWR is in the 3:1 and 4:1 range so I will use the tuner for that band.

I put away the antenna analyzer and connected the coax to my automatic tuner for

my HF radio. I got on 40 meters to see how it would tune. It tuned fine, the band was quiet and I heard quite a few stations as I tuned around. I heard KA6LMS/1 Ron in New Hampshire. This surprised me since it was a Last Man Standing station. I thought their special event didn't start until the next day until I realized that it was March 24<sup>th</sup> UTC time. I called him a few times and he was in the log. I was glad the antenna was working but I had to quit and do something else. The next day I read about the LMS special event and learned that you could find where hams were working these stations on DXSummit. I found KA6LMS/6 was Ron in Santa Monica California on 20 meters. I worked him on my Yagi before switching to the loop to work KA8LMS/4 Kevin in Florida and KA6LMS/3 Mike in Maryland on 40 meters. The following day KA6LMS/2 was Peter in New York on 20 meters. It took me more calls to get him but I did. This seemed funny so I checked and found I worked him on the 80 loop. I switched to the Yagi, pointed it west and easily worked KA6LMS/7 Brian in Washington State. In addition to the ten /0 to /9 stations there were 6 stations with 1x1 call signs. I worked three of those that same day and three the next along with /8 in West Virginia and /5 in east Texas. Most of these were on 40 meters. One was on 80 meters in Vermont which was a real easy one since the loop was tuned for that band. There were huge pileups for some of these and people were being down right rude. Sometimes the special event station would start going by the numbers. This meant that they would only allow people to call with a certain number in their call sign. They would start at 0 or 1, make a number of contacts then move up to the next one. Several times I couldn't work a station because before they got to 9 they would quit or the band would die. Another problem I ran into was getting the /9 and /0 since they were too close for me to hear. I did get /9 on 40 meters on Friday when it was a station in Indiana. On the weekend I didn't even try. The WPX contest was all over the bands and it was just crazy so I decided to wait for Monday. Later I found out I should have tried to work station on the stage in California because they were only on the air that weekend. Monday I worked KA6LMS/0 Amanda in Colorado first call on 80 meters. Now I had them all except the stage and /VE3 and /VE7. On the 30<sup>th</sup> I found /VE3 Laird in Ontario on 80 meters then /VE7 Charlie in British Columbia on 40 meters for the clean sweep! The only one I didn't get was the stage station. Needless to say, this 80 meter full wavelength loop works great! All of these contacts were made running 100 watts. The lower horizontal segment of the antenna is below the bank to stations to the east but that didn't seem to matter. If you've got the room put up a full wavelength loop rather than a half wave or quarter wave dipole. You'll be glad you did!

73 de Dan AB9TS



LMS Special Event - March 2021										
STAGE									K6L	
<input type="checkbox"/>									K6M	
KA6LMS/0									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	K6S
KA6LMS/1									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W6L
KA6LMS/2									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W6M
KA6LMS/3									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W6S
KA6LMS/4									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DSTAR
KA6LMS/5									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DMR
KA6LMS/6									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FUSION
KA6LMS/7									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MOON
KA6LMS/8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BOUNCE								
KA6LMS/9	KA6LMS/VE3	KA6LMS/VE7	CONFIRMING QSO WITH	SATELLITE	MULTI MODE					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="AB9TS"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

# FLAT-HEAD KEEPS K9LEC OFF THE AIR

You may not have heard Greg Miller, K9LEC, on the air recently and that's because he's putting his efforts into a V-8 engine. It's not just any V-8, but a flat-head Ford, a mighty power piece well known to anyone around in the 1950s or anyone with an oily memory of great engines.

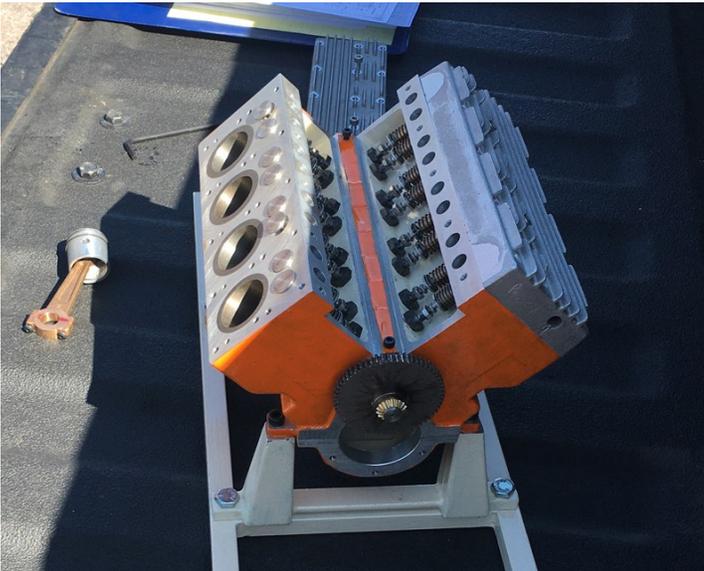
Greg's V-8 is even more special than that little powerhouse that smoked cops and laid tons of rubber in smoking strips tearing up local blacktop well beyond its 1923 – 1973 production.

Greg's V-8 is about the size of a breadbox and, when complete, should generate all of three horsepower.

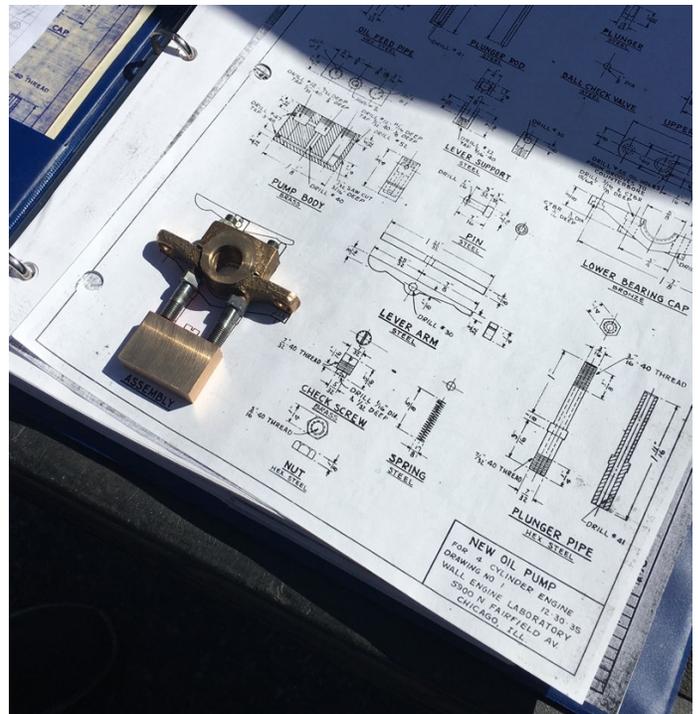
In case you didn't know, Greg is a machinist, both professionally and avocationally. He finished his professional career as an executive of Venture Machine in Onalaska but the smell of oily, hot metal is still in his life in his substantial home shop. He's taken a kit that his father, Dallas Miller, K9LEC (SK), purchased many years ago. Dallas started it and now Greg, in his retirement, is working hard in his shop to complete it. He's carefully machined part after part from the block, to pistons, to the crankshaft (a real challenge because of its off-set lobes) and now the carburetor. (NOTE to youngsters: device that fed gasoline and air into an engine).

There's still a ways to go though Greg plans to complete the working model this year.

By Bob Seaquist, W9LSE 



The Ford flat-head V-8 engine block Greg Miller, K9LEC, is building. Here it is displayed on the tailgate of his truck.



Construction plans for a miniature oil pump and the pump as built by Greg Miller, K9LEC.

# RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Monday, April 19, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM via Zoom.

**Officers Present:** Rick KD9GVS, David KB9EWG, Drew AB9NE, Ron KD9OHQ, Carl KC9HDS, Steve W9DXE, Absent Shawn KD9KGQ. Members/Guests: Dan AB9TS, Rich W9TIT, Art W0JDC.



**Approval of April 2021 minutes:** Minutes were approved for March's Meeting with no changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Drew was not available tonight, the treasurer's report is available on Dropbox.

**Officer's Reports:** There are none to report.

### Old Business:

- Newsletter Articles – for "The Key" should be sent to Kelley by the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month to make it into the newsletter.
- Scott Cross KB3MKD has idea for a Club activity to get more people on the air he has suggested an informal "contest" for an award certificate for confirmed contacts with 20 (?) other club members via radio using HF, 2m/440 repeaters, or simplex. Also could work mobile around county to help assess radio propagation. Plan is to discuss with Scott to see if he can implement and manage.

**Committee Reports:** There are none to report.

### New Business:

- Onalaska Community Days: Carl KC9HDS will follow up with group putting on the event.
- May program night – Tim N9CD will moderate a New Ham roundtable, he will donate 5 copies of his book "Quick, Practical Guide to DOING Ham Radio: Everything You Need to Know to Get Licensed and Operating!" to distribute to new area Hams.
- June 12<sup>th</sup> Club Picnic: Will be held at the #2 Stone Shelter House. Please remember it is a bring your own food. Plan to follow safety guidelines.
- Field Day 2021 is on June 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>. Several board/club members are going to make a site visit on April 25<sup>th</sup> to the Champions Campground near Galesville to see if it would be a potential option for field days. No decision has been made and it will be reviewed and discussed.
- The August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Swap Fest is going to be held at the Legion in Onalaska, WI again this year. The event has been registered with the ARRL and the Section Manager has committed to attend. Stay tuned for more information. The event flyer is being developed and will go out to various clubs and other interested parties soon. Roger Reader, Rick Kolter and Kelley Becker will be helping get the flyer completed and circulated.
- Dave Peters alerted the board to an email phishing attempt, after discussion all members are reminded to be vigilant against these attempts using some club information to attempt to obtain information or money. If in doubt check it out with. Stay safe out there on the World Wide Web.

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:40

\* *Anyone who is a member of the Club are welcome to attend the RARC Board meetings.*

## UPCOMING Events for May 2021

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

May 2, 2021	Shawn kd9kgq
May 9, 2021	Mark kb9ofk
May 16, 2021	Carl kc9hds
May 23, 2021	Rick kd9gvs
May 30, 2021	Wayne k0wlo

- ◆ Saturday morning Ragchew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM
- ◆ **May 4...**Program Night, Time: 07:00 PM, <https://zoom.us/j/99796168272>
- ◆ **May 8...**Amateur Radio Examination, Time 08:00 AM.  
Contact Roger Reader, KA9BKK (608) 783-0723 or [readers@centurytel.net](mailto:readers@centurytel.net) at least 5 days in advance. Tests are held at the **Church Of Christ**, 3506 28th St. South in La Crosse at 9:00 AM  
(Across from Hintgen Elementary School)  
Bring two forms of ID, a copy of your current license, Social Security number and any CSCE's you may already have. FCC now requires applicants to have a FRN number and an e-mail address.
- ◆ **May 17...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 06:30 PM, <https://zoom.us/j/99796168272>



## BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO

- Yaesu FT-2900R, 75W 2-meter FM mobile w/mounting bracket, MH48 hand mic, power cord, programming cable, manual, schematic sheet—\$90.00. Call/text Steve, W9DXE at 608-487-5810

\* Send your Amateur related classified ad to Kelley, NLT the 27th of each month to [kelleyLL23@hotmail.com](mailto:kelleyLL23@hotmail.com)

## 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: Kelley Becker at KelleyLL23@hotmail.com.
- \* The Riverland Amateur Radio Club maintains a website at [rarc.qth.com](http://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 Crescent, 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 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 2021 Board of Trustees and contact information.**

President.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS Email...[rckolter@gmail.com](mailto:rckolter@gmail.com)

Vice-President.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email...[kb9ewg@gmail.com](mailto:kb9ewg@gmail.com)

Secretary.....Ron Severson, KD9OHQ Email...[ronaldhseverson54@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldhseverson54@gmail.com)

Treasurer.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...[ab9ne@yahoo.com](mailto:ab9ne@yahoo.com)

Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...[kc9hds@gmail.com](mailto:kc9hds@gmail.com)

Trustee.....Steve Becker, W9DXE Email...[sbecker54656@yahoo.com](mailto:sbecker54656@yahoo.com)

Repeater Trustee.....Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...[eistim68@gmail.com](mailto:eistim68@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor.....Kelley Becker, KD9LQW Email...[kellyLL23@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyLL23@hotmail.com)