



**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

A Presentation on Patents	1
President's Comments	2
RARC Board Meeting Minutes	3
VE Session	4
Clearing the Way	5
Upcoming Events	6
Events & Buy, Sell, Trade, ISO	6
Club Info	7

A Presentation on Patents...

The Presenter for this evening was Bill O'Driscoll. He worked as a Software Engineer for Honeywell then went to Marquette Law School, afterwards he was a Patent Lawyer for Trane Company for many years. He did a presentation with slide show outlining the different types of patents and how they are applied. It was a very informative presentation that shed a lot of light on an otherwise at times obscure area of legalese. He explained the difference between Copyrights, Trade Marks, Patents and Trade Secrets:

- Copyrights deal with works of authorship.
- Trade Marks are the Logos or Brands.
- Patents are a limited monopoly of an idea, process, or device.
- Trade Secrets are another way to protect Ideas, methods, or processes that an industry wants to keep to themselves. They might result in a loss of knowledge if they are kept too secret.

Patents evolved as a deal between a government and an inventor. They remain in effect for a limited time. They prevent anyone else from making, using, or selling an invention. A patent is only good in the country of origin. In order to be patented a device or idea must be useful. An invention can also be a concept or production method. It can also be a type of utility, a plant strain, a design like the shape of pasta, or like Lego bricks.

A Provisional Patent Application is a one year placeholder for that invention.

Patents are researched for authenticity by a Patent Agent who is much cheaper to use but can't evaluate if there is infringement or a Patent Attorney who can be more definitive but is much more costly to use. Patent applications are a request for a Patent from a government. A Patent contains a Claim with a legal description of the idea. A Patent grants the rights to an idea. Patent Pending is a notice of a Patent Application. Patents must be free of Prior Art of that which came before an idea. A Patent Title Abstract is a brief description or summary of intent, a description of the drawings and a detailed description of the Claim. The Patent itself is all about the Claim of what it can do. It usually contains a Process, a Device, a System, or a Product made using a specific method.

What to do to Claim an Invention, a desire to secure it. An example is a pencil, describing how it was made, was it so obvious that it has an eraser on the end or can it be made differently?

Software and Business Methods: An algorithm can not be Patented by itself, it must be shown to be unique in its origin and use.

Cost of a Patent: Generally it is at least \$8000.00 to \$12,000.00 to get a US Patent. Patents for additional countries are about \$10,000.00 each.

Patent timing: It takes about 3 years to get a Patent and it lasts for 20 years from the filing date. Outside of the US an application for a Patent is needed. Some times it does not pay to get foreign Patents.

Continued on page 4



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings to all Club Members,

In a previous newsletter column I indicated there would be times that club members will need to be flexible to changing situations and adopt the "Semper Gumby" mindset. Events in the past month or so have supported that statement. Shortly after the release of last month's newsletter, I got an email from Kevin Rindy who was scheduled to be our April club meeting presenter. Kevin stated that he had a last minute scheduling conflict and was not able to provide the presentation at our April club meeting. Thankfully, the board had a couple of options to implement for Plan B. We were able to pull ahead our scheduled presenter for May (Bill O'Driscoll) up to April and move Kevin Rindy back to the May meeting spot.

In another example, the board discovered that the Onalaska American Legion double booked the date we had originally planned for our annual Swapfest in August. We had already had a signed contract, when it was discovered that Onalaska Community Days, which normally occurred in June, was being held at the Legion on that date. The Legion is under new management and has been struggling with scheduling conflicts like this. They were going to give us the hall for use on the planned date, but we would not have had access to the parking lot. This wouldn't have allowed for tailgating sales at the Swapfest. In short, it would've been a real mess to move forward with the planned date even with a signed contract in

hand. Carl KC9HDS stepped up to plate and negotiated another date in August (Saturday August 20, 2022) with the Legion to avoid the hassle of competing with other event. This issue has been frustrating for Carl, and for the rest of the board for that matter, but he is making the best of the situation. The club owes its gratitude to him for his hard work in trying to make this event run as smoothly as possible.

In addition to having Kevin Rindy's rescheduled presentation about his role in La Crosse Emergency Management at the May 3, 2022 club meeting; May brings us another club event for members to participate in. On Saturday May 21, 2022 club members are being asked to volunteer to help out with the MS Walk being held in downtown La Crosse. Rick KD9GVS is leading this event. He will place the club volunteers strategically around the MS Walk route. With handheld radios club volunteers will be able to report back to net control (KD9GVS) on the progress of the MS Walk participants as well any health or safety related issues that may arise along the route. If you have time to volunteer, please contact Rick via his email address: rckolter@gmail.com

Until I see you all in person (or via Zoom) at the May 3, 2022 club meeting, I bid you all 73.

Shawn,

KD9KGQ



RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



» Call to Order: 1837

» Approval of Minutes: Scott KB3MKD moved to approve. Approved

» Treasurer's Report:

» Officer's Report: Shawn KD9KGQ will look at the RARC Constitution & Standing Rules

» Committee Reports:

- Constitution Committee – Status update? Looking for recommendations.

» Old Business:

- MS Walk – May 21st, email request for volunteers has been sent by Rick KD9GVS. Will use APRS on
freq 144.390 for APRS tracking.

- Club Picnic – This has been scheduled for Saturday June 4th at Rowe Park Shelter #2 in Onalaska. Starting time for socializing as well as the time food will be served is needed as this is important for those with diabetes and other health issues that may have to plan their medication intake. Need to talk to Tom KB9BJQ about steaks for the picnic

- La Crosse Queen Cruise – 16 members / family members expressed interest in attending the cruise on July 6, 2022. See the copy and paste email verbiage in italicized font below form La Crosse Queen Cruises.

In order to do a contract, we will need a guaranteed minimum of 25 people. If you're not doing a contract, then you or individually people can purchase their tickets online June 8th.

Our Pizza Cruise prices are as follows:

Under 1 year-Infant-Free

11-1 years-Child-\$15.16

12-61 years-Adult-\$24.45

62+ Senior-\$23.36

Those prices are with taxes and gratuities.

- RARC Swapfest – The date has been moved to Saturday August 20th due to the Ona American Legion double booking the facilities for August 6th (Onalaska Community Days). Has the VE Session been moved to August 20th as well?

» New Business:

- Irish Road Bowling – June 18, 2022 near Bangor on Hesselberg Road. Shawn KD9KGQ and Drew AB9NE will be competing in this Irishfest La Crosse sponsored event. Anyone is welcome to come and join in on the light hearted competition. Luke Seielstad (from Irishfest La Crosse / Shamrock Club) is coordinating this event. When asked, he said he would welcome having RARC members with radios along the roughly 1.7 mile road bowling course to serve as spotters. The course is in Amish country so mechanized road traffic would be at a minimum. Having about 4 to 6 members along the course could help the event out. Can we get some club members willing to help out with this event or represent the club as competitors? Rick KD9GVS is interested in competing in this event.

- Onalaska Community Days – August 6th at the Onalaska American Legion, does the club want to participate in this event? Conciseness: No contact from organizers. Not interested. We won't participate.

- RARC shirts – pricing quotes are in from a vendor. Which quote proposal does the board want to recommend to the club? The t-shirt issue is dead due to a lack of interest.

Update on repeater: Dan Rasmusson at WXOW no connection with FOX 25 or PBS the other towers at WXOW site. Has nothing to do with climbers.

2 problems remain:

1. When there is wind or rain there is static interference.
2. Repeater doesn't drop until it times out.

Also there is a lot of intermod and input noise at times. The source is unknown. Perhaps bumping up the squelch a notch or two might help. Could solve problem by going to Digital, but that would exclude a lot of users. Anything loose or rusted in a connection could be the cause of the problems. Need to check that out.

» Motion to Adjourn: 2015 Scott KB3MKD adjourned.

Monthly Program List



Kevin Rindy, La Crosse County Emergency Management - May

A Presentation on Patents... (continued)

Using Patents in Business:

Patents are used to block competitors usage of ideas or methods.

They can be used for Licensing outside of your industry, Cross Licensing within your industry, selling the Patent, donating your Patent for Tax deduction purposes

They can be in the form of Technology Licenses within a division of a company and are sometimes used to justify the movement of funds across International Borders.

Searching Patents: A search for conflicting Patents are carried out at the US Patent and Trade Mark Office. It gives a Patent standing in the US.

Patents can be researched on Google as all US patents are listed there. There is also a European Patent office that can be searched on line.

Some Patents of interest are: the Patent for the Transistor by Schockley, Marconi's Patents, Armstrong's Patent for FM radio, and Hedy Lamar's for broad spectrum radio frequencies.

In addition to a Google Search for Patents one can do an Advanced Google Search, it will yield the Patent Date and Number among other Options.

73

Carl

KC9HDS



VE Session

- ♦ **May 7...Amateur Radio Examinations-Contact Roger Reader, KA9BKK (608) 783-0723** or 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, \$15.00, and any CSCE's you may already have. FCC now requires applicants to have a FRN number and an e-mail address.



Clearing the way...

It isn't always easy to find the time to get on the air. There are so many things that tend to get in the way. This has been especially true of my need to clear out the piles of stuff that has accumulated in my garage. For many years it seemed like it would not come to pass as the clearing of the massive amount of stuff in there was such a daunting task, that few thought that it would ever happen. I know, I know, I've been called a hoarder by some who don't know or understand me, but I have always maintained that what resides in my garage is not a hoard, but rather a collection of items that have not found their true home yet.

Over the years, I have dealt with the friendly observation of many that I would never see and end to the huge accumulation of seemingly unwanted things in my garage. Those closest to me have been very patient with my assertion that I would find a good home for all of that stuff. You see it is not easy to be rid of that collection of items that somehow seemed to grow out of nowhere.

It is simply this: It is, at times, beyond my understanding or control, but the fact remains that it is a genetic thing that I have collected all of that stuff. It was rather unavoidable that it happened as I come from a long line of collectors. My ancestors had a knack for finding unwanted things that they were sure someone would need at some future time.

Meanwhile, they would store this stuff in hopes that the day would come when their foresight would pay off. My grandfather was very good at this, he was a man of his time in that he lived through the Great Depression and managed to survive it by dealing with all sorts of things that had been cast off by oth-

ers. He collected scrap metal which he stored until he had a large amount of it and, at a time when the price of scrap metal was high, he would sell it off. This seemed like a reasonable thing to do, but it wasn't long and he would have gathered together a massive amount of unwanted items and put them all in his garage until it was full, then he would build an addition to it and add even more stuff. It took many years for that all to be cleared out, but it eventually was dealt with.

My father too was good at collecting all sorts of things that he felt was of some value to someone and again his collection grew. He was a machinist and tool and die maker, so he tended to collect disused tools of all sorts. When the time came to deal with his collection, much of it was passed on to me and my collecting days began. Anyone who has seen the inside of my garage will attest to the fact that there is a bewildering amount of ancient tools and other things.

At one time, for something to pass the time, I became involved with a computer store that needed someone to do repairs on computers and their accessories. I learned a lot about various types of computers and inherited a lot of them from the store owner who no longer wanted many of them. My collection grew.

73

Carl

KC9HDS



UPCOMING Events for April 2022

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

May 1, 2022	Shawn kd9kgq
May 8, 2022	Mark kb9ofk
May 15, 2022	Rick kd9gvs
May 22, 2022	David kd9epn
May 29, 2022	Shawn kd9kgq

- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **May 3...**Program Night: Kevin Rindy, La Crosse County Emergency Management
- ◆ **May 16...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 6:30 PM, Onalaska Perkins. All members are welcome to attend.
- ◆ **May 21 ...** MS Walk. Contact Rick Kolter KD9GVSfor details.

Email rckolter@gmail.com

BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net



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

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

Secretary.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

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

Trustee.....Rick Kolter KD9GVS Email rckolter@gmail.com

Repeater Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK Email...readers@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net