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The need for Spring Renewal...

Most people are in the habit of doing Spring Cleaning. Before that can be done here there is the need to do a massive Spring Renewal. The shack, or I should say shacks at my QTH (I have two of them), have gotten rather over grown with the detritus of winter. Try as I might, I never seem to get as organized as I should be and the dreary days of winter tends to make me even more disorganized. Things tend to be piled up here. It always seems easier to let things slide, especially when the cold season of winter sets in. As a result of this, a lack of focus and a tendency to let things build up is the result.

Anyone who has seen my QTH, knows what I'm talking about. Last year a concerted effort was undertaken to rectify this. With the help of a willing assistant I had commenced the elimination of excess "stuff" around here, via eBay. Great strides have been made in that direction but there is still a lot of things to be eliminated from here. The logistics of clearing things out seems so simple and direct, but believe me, it is far more complex than one might think. As I have reported in the past, I not only have a massive amount of "stuff" in my shack, but also in my basement and my garage. The obvious starting point was the garage as it had the most "stuff" that needed to be shifted.

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UPCOMING Events for May 2023

- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
 - ♦ **May 2...**Program Night: Antenna presentation by Bob Heil.
 - ♦ **May 15...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable. All members are welcome to attend.
 - ♦ **May 20...** Hams in the park. Stay tuned for more information
- RARC Sunday Night 2Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for March are:
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| May 7, 2023 | David kd9epn |
| May 14, 2023 | Rick kd9gvs |
| May 21, 2023 | Wayne k0wlo |
| May 28, 2023 | Shawn kd9kgq |

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Springtime feels like a sandpiper zipping aimlessly around the beach this year. It'll be nice for a few days, then we get a few days of not so nice. Temperatures seem to be trending in a warmer pattern, but weather in April has proven to be consistently inconsistent.

I joined a few club members who made the trek to Stoughton for the swapfest earlier this month. It was a fun trip. I was able to resist a few items that were calling to me. I succumbed to a few smaller things: coax jumpers, some RF adapters, and a WW2-era leg-mounted morse code key. Perhaps it'll make an appearance at a Hams in the Park weekend coming up. It was nice to visit with the group on the journey there and back.

I started in ham radio at about 12 or 13 years old. My family lived near Saukville (South of Sheboygan). My Elmer was a member of the Ozaukee Radio Club, so I joined it, too. That was where I fell in love with Field Day. I was in that club until I joined the Army and moved away.

I owned a farm near Blair before moving to La Crosse. Out from the city and away from the noise, radio work was nicer. There was less background noise with which to contend. I quickly decided that although radio is an endeavor for an individual person, it is much more rewarding to have the regular fellowship that a local club offers. I joined the club up in Eau Claire while I was there. It was good to have a group of friends with which to share the hobby, pick up pointers, and just chat.

Now here I am in La Crosse. The Riverland

Amateur Radio Club has been a big part of making radio a more rewarding pursuit. I'm thankful for the friends I've made, the things I've learned from those friends, and the opportunity I have to pass along things that I've learned over the years.

Along those lines... Hams in the Park. I heard about the idea from a story in Newsline on our Sunday Night Net. I mentioned the story to a few other RARC members, and got a positive response at the notion of having a similar series of meetings here in La Crosse. We can spend some time operating portable from a city park. I've been watching the forecasts for a good April weekend day to do it, but the sandpiper was at the wrong end of the beach. Let's try May 20. It'll hopefully be less noisy than at home (there's not a washer/dryer and furnace all within a few feet, so I know it'll be quieter for me). It'll give members and friends more chances to visit and ask questions. You can bring problem equipment along to get suggestions from other people on what a feasible answer might be, too.

I hope this will be a positive addition to the club's activities. I hope to see you all there, and at other events coming up this summer.

Tnx es 73,

Drew Neve

AB9NE





RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SWAPFEST

AUGUST 5, 2023

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Located at Bethany Church La Crosse

3936 County Rd B, La Crosse, WI 54601

Talk in: 146.970 PL 131.8

Door Prizes
Flea Market
Buy—Sell—Trade
Tailgating Locations Available
Food Vendor
Handicap Accessible



VE Test Session at 9:00 AM



Advanced Table Reserve And Entrance Form

Entrance Fee _____ x \$5.00 = _____

Table Reserve _____ x \$10.00 = _____ [Does not include Entrance Fee]

Limited electrical hook-up available on a 1st come 1st serve. Indicate here if you are requesting electrical hook-up ☐ (Checking box does not guarantee availability of an electrical receptacle)

Advanced form will be held at the entrance table for you. No pre-fest mailings.

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Mail form and fee to:
RARC
Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

For further info call Scott Cross at 319 432 1070 or email kb3mkd@arrrl.net

TIME IT TAKES A HACKER TO BRUTE FORCE YOUR PASSWORD IN 2023

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	1 sec	2 secs	4 secs
8	Instantly	Instantly	28 secs	2 mins	5 mins
9	Instantly	3 secs	24 mins	2 hours	6 hours
10	Instantly	1 min	21 hours	5 days	2 weeks
11	Instantly	32 mins	1 month	10 months	3 years
12	1 sec	14 hours	6 years	53 years	226 years
13	5 secs	2 weeks	332 years	3k years	15k years
14	52 secs	1 year	17k years	202k years	1m years
15	9 mins	27 years	898k years	12m years	77m years
16	1 hour	713 years	46m years	779m years	5bn years
17	14 hours	18k years	2bn years	48bn years	380bn years
18	6 days	481k years	126bn years	2tn years	26tn years



➤ Learn how we made this table at hivesystems.io/password

You want passwords that are at least in the orange. I use a password manager called Bitwarden. It integrates with my browser, making it easy to maintain a nearly impossible to guess password, unique to each web site.

Multi factor authentication is an even better way to protect your online identity.



The need for Spring Renewal... (Continued)

Over the years there has been so much "stuff" that has found a home here. Most of it consists of things that are too good to throw away, but of little real daily use to me, so it all must go. Real progress has been made on the garage. For those of you who haven't seen my garage, let me describe it a bit for you. It is a 2 and a half car garage, roughly 22 by 28 feet with a 10 foot ceiling. That equates to a little over 6000 cubic feet of space, of which over 75% of it was filled with "stuff." We have 2 cars that have not seen the inside of it any time this century. My XYL has been extremely patient with this mess, but I decided long ago that this must change. Last summer things finally came to a head and I was able to move a bunch of "stuff" out of the garage and into someone else's. As an added inducement, I promised my XYL that she could put here new car in there by Thanksgiving. Most people thought that this was an impossibility, but I was determined, so I made an effort to see this done. In addition to the stuff that was sold on eBay, I also rented a storage unit that is about half as big as my garage. This gave me a means of freeing up space in my garage and enabling me to be able to sort out things to make it all go more smoothly. Between the rented storage unit and eBay sales, I was able to fulfill the pledge to get a car in the garage. It was done on time and a car now resides in our garage. This was such a shock to everyone around here that some thought that my XYL had left me, since there was now only one car on the driveway!

That was last year, now things are getting to the point where I can actually get my shacks in shape to the point where they can be comfortable used for Ham Radio. Oh yes, there still is much to be done, but progress is continuing and everyone here is much happier with the result. As the weather is becoming more amenable to clearing things out, more "stuff" is disappearing and more space is being vacated. The fear now is that more "stuff" will be sucked into the resulting vacuum. I have made it clear that I will avoid rummage sales, flea markets, a Ham Fest until the ultimate goal is achieved. As a devoted collector from a family with a genetic collecting chromosome that runs deep into the roots of our family tree, it has not been easy. Let's be clear, I am not a "hoarder" but I hate to see things that have a potential use be thrown away. As a result my collection of "stuff" has steadily grow over several decades. Now it is ramping down to more a manageable size. More next month on it's progress. Meanwhile, If you have too much "stuff" think about bring it to our SwapFest in August we can always use more sellers there

73 Carl



KC9HDS



- *Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net*
- *Please send some classifieds*
- *We need some classifieds*

BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO

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 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. 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 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 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 Fork and Fable Restaurant, Jackson and 16th streets, La Crosse 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.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

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