

THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club



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
night on the
146.970 Repeater

Club Meetings
Trustee Meeting
3rd Monday of the
month at King
Street Kitchen at
5:00 PM, all club
members are
welcome.

Program evening is
1st Tuesday of the
month at 7:00 PM,
Gunderson Clinic
conference room 1



Disney World and Digital vs Analog

Its not always what is happening in the world of Amateur Radio that is interesting to RARC club members, but it does help to throw in some radio related things to keep us on task. The October RARC meeting featured a presentation given by our President Kevin KC9ZGD. He managed to bring together a Power Point presentation that was able to combine a report on his trip to Disney World and a comparison of Digital and Analog methods of sound recording and transmission. How he came up with this is still a mystery, but it really matters little as it all came together in the end.

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"Who else is going to do it" Those words were spoken to me many years ago when I was considering throwing my hat in the ring for a position in our radio club. As a person on the fence as to whether I should do it and considering the time and effort required to do the job correctly, coming to a decision was not coming easy. Then these words came at me, "Who else is going to do it". That is what I needed to put me over the edge and do what club members should do at some time or another. As it turned out it was not time consuming and the effort was not very hard. It actually was quite enjoyable and I hope beneficial to the club. Now I will be stepping aside and giving room for other club members to step forward and answer that very same question, "Who else is going to do it". Clubs need a turn over of new leaders to bring in fresh new ideas so look at yourself and step up to the plate for the club. After your time in serving you can look back and be glad that you answered with "I am going to do it".



Riverland Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

President.....Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD
Vice-President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS
Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS
Treasurer.....Greg Miller, K9LEC
Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS
Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK
Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ
Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC

The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. Address any correspondence to: Greg Miller at k9lec@arrl.net.

Visit our website at rarc.qth.com



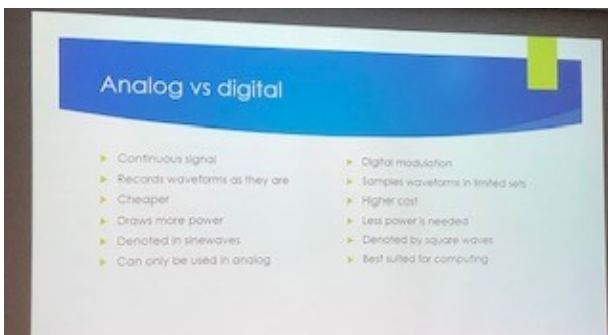
Only one testing date remaining for 2018 for any new licenses or up grades.

November 10

Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurtytel.net.

- October 28...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, kd9gvs.
- November 4...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Kevin, kc9zgd.
- November 6...Program night, Mystery Program by Mitch Shultz's.
- November 11...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, kb9ofk.
- November 18...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is David, kd9epn.
- November 19...Trustee Meeting at King Street Kitchen, 5 PM, club members are welcome.
- November 22...Thanksgiving Day, don't eat to much.
- November 25...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Greg, k9lec.
- December 1...Skywarn Appreciation Day at the NWS office on Grand Dad Bluff.
- December 2...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Carl, kc9hds.

First, Kevin shared his pictures of Disney World and Epcot Center that he and some friends visited last year. In addition to the pictures and an explanation of their relevance to his talk, he was able to express his enthusiasm for the experience of going to those places. He shared the trip itself with a co-worker and family from the radio station where he works. It was obvious that much of Disney World is designed for kids, but there are a lot of things there that will amaze and delight visitors of all ages. The sheer size of the grounds, rides, and displays is most impressive, not to mention the visual impact of the multi media presentations that are every where. There is defiantly some thing for everyone, especially if you like current pop culture such as things relating to Star Wars. Kevin admitted that he is not a Star Wars buff, in fact he has not seen any of the movies in that series, so there where many things going on there that he didn't understand, but found them fascinating anyway. The kids that were along with him and his co-worker were especially wowed by everything that they saw. Anyone who grew up with Disney Land on TV would enjoy the sights, sounds, and activities that related to those early TV shows, but there was so much of interest to even those who never experienced Disney productions could identify with and appreciate. From the Magic Kingdom to Outer Space and back the automations of historic characters, the simulated river boat cruises, and the interactive multi media displays caused thrills and awe in everyone there. Kevin was so excited about this that his enthusiasm was felt by all in attendance. He promoted the experience very well and encouraged all to experience Disney World for themselves. He was careful to explain the logistics of going there, the costs, and benefits of it and how much fun it is for the whole family. His descriptions, pictures and videos were most entertaining and informative, the result was almost as good as being there.



Next, Keven again used Power Point to explain the differences and similarities of Digital vs Analog in modern day life. His simple, straight forward explanations of the pluses and minuses of each were most informative and easy to follow. In some instances Digital is superior to Analog, but there are some things that Analog does much better than Digital. Digital has the advantaged of requiring less power and when recording, takes less storage space, but it is less dynamic than sound created and recorded with Analog methods. Also when it comes to instrumenta-

tion, Digital is more precise than Analog, but an Analog display can show ranges and trends much easier visually than Digital. Each method has its adherents and detractors. When it comes to recorded sound, Analog is still gives the most authentic and natural sound. In fact, in spite if the popularity of Digital CDs and DVDs; true audiophiles still prefer Analog recordings as the resulting sound is much fuller and truer to the original sound of the music that was recorded. For Amateur Radio Operators, Digital modes require less power to transmit and receive signals, and those signals aren't as susceptible to noise interference. Many Digital modes are becoming more popular among Hams as a result, but there are still many Hams who prefer the challenging experience of tuning and communicating with a more traditional HF transceiver. There are still many who feel that the real fun part of Amateur Radio is the uncertainty of trying to send and receive phone or CW messages by traditional means. The thing is that there are so many choices of modes and methods in this hobby that there is plenty of room for both Digital and Analog communications. Kevin suggests that you should just get on the air and try them.



ARRL president suggests that we “re-brand” amateur radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This Week in Amateur Radio recently reported (<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/this-week-in-amateur-radio/e/51325707>) on a speech given by ARRL president, Rick Roderick, K5UR, at the 60th annual West Virginia State ARRL convention held August 25th at WVU Jackson’s Mill Conference Center. Here are some things that he had to say:

“Are we even relevant anymore as ham radio operators? Well, let’s see: We’re world communicators. We provide public service. We help in emergencies and disasters. We help save lives. We talk to the jungles of Africa...to the beaches of the South Pacific. We bounce signals off the moon. We talk to astronauts. We promote technology. We do positive things. So absolutely—we are relevant.

“We’ve got to accept change and we’ve got to adapt if we’re going to bridge that gap to that next generation. So the question that I have here that I have challenged my colleagues at ARRL with is this: is it time to rebrand ham radio? Maybe we need to rebrand the American Radio Relay League. That’s a pretty profound statement.”

Of course, I agree with K5UR on this and said so myself (<https://www.kb6nu.com/are-we-amateurs-or-what/>) several years ago. Unfortunately, according to the report, he retreated to the same old ideas that the ARRL has been spouting for years:

“Well I think we ought to get out there and stir things up. That’s what I think we ought to do. I think you ought to go back and rejuvenate your club. Over the next year, get somebody into ham radio. The second thing I want you to do...I want you to help a ham that needs your help. And the third thing I want you to do is—if you’re not a member of the American Radio Relay League, you need to join today...because you know that whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us. I want you to ask yourself this question: don’t you think it’s time to give something back? Now I believe as a group, if we all did that we’ll make a difference in this hobby as we go forward. Be a champion of ham radio. Let’s work together and get it done. Thank you very much.”

I’d like to challenge K5UR and the ARRL to really stir things up. There are lots of us out here giving back by teaching classes, conducting exam sessions, and helping hams get on the air. That’s not the problem.

What we need from the ARRL is real leadership, not just talk. Exhorting the troops is only going to go so far. For most hams, amateur radio is only a hobby, and they do what they can. It’s really up to the ARRL to provide the leadership that ties it all together and provide the framework that will allow us all to be successful.

Saying, “Whether you like us or not, we’re all you’ve got; ain’t nobody else in Washington DC helping us” doesn’t really cut it. You have to show people that you’re really making a difference, not just say you are.

When he's not giving the ARRL the benefit of his opinions, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him your thoughts about the ARRL at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.





RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday Oct 15, 2018 Executive Meeting

MINUTES

Call to order: 1715 hrs

Members Present : Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD, Greg Miller K9LEC, Roger Reader KA9BKK, Dan Abts AB9TS, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS

Approval of Minutes: Sept minutes approved without comment

Treasurer's Report: Oct financial record available upon request

Committee Reports:

Greg, Omni Center update: future building useage fees will increase substantially. Continue looking for new venue. Onalaska American Legion still a possibility.

Dan attended Rotary Lites meeting. We will be entering our Xmas Tree again this year, also we will likely have an entry in the Rotary lites parade Nov 23rd. Must register by Nov. 10th- for this at Rotarylites.org or TimEhler@gmail.com with questions. 608-792-6955.

Old Business:

Kevin attended ARES/RACES conference inWis Rapids on Oct. 13th. Many interesting topics/discussions noted. One thing of interest is the WeComm organization is studying new repeater siting near La Crosse area. This area lacking in coverage for this statewide system, but plans are in the works.

New Business:

Club Christmas Party to be at Schmidty's once again Jan 8, 2019. Rick and Roger will take care of mailing invites and also membership renewals.

Motion to Adjourn : 1830 hrs