

RIVERLAND
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB (RARC)
LA CROSSE, WI



THE KEY

ISSUE 11 FOR 2021

NOVEMBER 2021

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Editor Thoughts

This November marks my 1st anniversary of taking over the Editor duties of the Club's Newsletter, The Key. I would like to take this opportunity to reminisce on what I've learned and observed this past year.

As communicators, we Ham's don't necessarily use our communication skills as much as you'd think we would. With our Ham equipment combined with today's technology like email, text messaging, etc., I think we generally do better in face-to-face scenarios. It just seems that we're all too busy with our day-to-day lives to get on the Saturday morning ragchew or Sunday night Net. Or even just to monitor the local repeaters and say "hi" when someone does break the silence to announce that they're monitoring. I think that could be discouraging to newbie Hams and they quickly lose interest in the hobby.

There are plenty of opportunities to participate in the Club events that happen throughout the year. But it seems to be the same group of folks that always find the time to show up, even if it's just for a few minutes to check-in. Without those die-hards, I think that our groups would quickly meet its demise.

I encourage everyone to find an activity that you are able to participate in, even if it's just to check-in on the Sunday night Net. I think that we have a great group of Club members that have a lot to offer, especially to those who are just starting out in the hobby. I encourage you to offer to do a demonstration at a Club meeting, or write an article for The Key. Once you crack your shell, it actually is a very great feeling to contribute to the Club and get to know your fellow Hams a little better.

I'm very honored to have this role as an Editor. Even though it does take some of my time out of my month, I love to be able to connect with you all this way. Thank you to all of the contributors this past year as you are the ones that make this newsletter interesting and make my job a lot easier.

See you all on the air.

73 de KD9LQW, Kelley
(Editor, & contributor)



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello Club Members,

The Holidays are right around the corner, and that means another opportunity for the RARC to volunteer. We have accepted our assignment at Rotary Lights for the Riverside Park clean-up. It will be on November 27th, 9:00 AM. Six volunteers are needed, so if you can help, please email Shawn at eistim@gmail.com, or let us know at the next Club meeting.

Speaking of the next meeting, it will be on November 2nd, 7:00 PM, on Zoom. Steve and Kelley will present on building a homemade "J-pole" antenna. Zoom information will be sent out in a reminder email, or look for it elsewhere in the Key.

The December meeting is very important as we will take nominations for Club Executive Board members for the upcoming year. So please start thinking about who you would like to see on the Board, or perhaps consider putting your name in the "hat".

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.

Also remember the Saturday morning "ragchew" on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 AM.

A reminder if you have any submissions for the Club Newsletter, The Key, please send them to our editor, Kelley Becker at kelleyLL23@hotmail.com.

Please remember for your on-line purchases, please try 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 rck-olter@gmail.com.

73 for now,

Rick KD9GVS 

What's next?

Since the rest of this year's calendar seems to be fairly empty, what do we do next? The only things left for this year are: the November membership meeting with a video on the construction of j pole antennas by Steve W9DXE and the annual nomination of the members of our Executive Board. That is followed by the December meeting with the election of the Executive Board and a yet to be determined presentation. Also in December comes in with SkyWarn Appreciation Day on the first Saturday of the month, if it happens as usual. Nothing about that event has been announced.

At the last membership meeting held at Greg K9LEC's QTH, the status of our communications trailer was brought up. At the end of the meeting, the trailer was opened and the members were able to see for themselves the trailer's current condition. Many members expressed ideas about what needs to be done to make our trailer more useful for emergencies and club events. We need to determine what exactly we want to do with the trailer and how best to make it ready for use.

Meanwhile, we have received a bunch of suggestions on "Trailer Improvements". The Executive Board met recently and were presented with the list of trailer improvement suggestions that were submitted by various members. The Board will consider those recommendations and plan the implementation of the needed improvements to the trailer. A final list of improvements will be submitted to the membership for their consideration and approval.

Once the finalized list of trailer improvements has been approved, the Trailer Committee will proceed with what can be done to facilitate those changes. The members needed to put those ideas into action will be contacted and a plan of action will be discussed. The procurement of the materials for this project will be put into operation and when everything is brought together for this project, the actual hands-on work will begin. As that activity progresses, more ideas may be needed to see that the desired result is achieved.

This is a very big undertaking and we must be flexible to make this project happen. The Board has been thinking about this project for some time and it has been determined that more input is needed to be successful in this, so everyone is encouraged to add their thoughts about how this will be best achieved. There are no ideas too far-fetched for consideration. More suggestions are welcome and encouraged, so if anyone has any ideas that might be considered, please send them to: kc9hds@juno.com. The best way to see the kind of result that is desired is to take as many things into consideration as possible. We may not implement every idea submitted, but all ideas will be on the table.

We may need to have a fund raiser, as our current resources are limited. Participants in a fund-raising effort will be needed as well, so if you are willing to help with this, please let the Board know.

73 de KC9HDS, Carl
(member, & contributor)



Emergency Preparedness...

Emergency Preparedness is an often-discussed topic locally. On a national or international basis, there is a great need for Amateur Radio Operators for communications during a devastating emergency. We have all seen the results of massive earth quakes, hurricanes, floods and forest fires that have ravaged various parts of our nation and world. The Amateur Radio Operators have been in the forefront of those who spring to the need to help whenever disaster strikes. As a result of these historic and at times disaster events of a Biblical proportions that occur, we have been encouraged to be prepared for the worst possible scenario that might happen. In the greater La Crosse area, that includes the surrounding counties, there are about 150 Licensed Radio Operators. Of that number, there are less than half that are active on a regular basis and even less who are involved in an organized group. The numbers of Hams involved actively in SkyWarn or ARES/RACES, is even smaller. Why is this the case? Is it because the Hams of our region are ignorant of the need to be prepared for an emergency or is it that they are just apathetic? Maybe, it is because there doesn't seem to be an immediate or potential need for their rapid response.

Oh yes, it would be nice to see that in an emergency where the infrastructure of our area is compromised, we will be asked to step in and help out. The likelihood of such an event is rather remote. On the few times that we have been called on to help out, it has been to make damage assessments or aid with the distribution of needed materials, not to be a link for communications for police, fire, or other emergency services. Those sorts of situations could be handled by any group of volunteers, such as Boy Scout Troops or members of one of the various service organizations. Let's face it, there isn't much of a possibility of our experiencing a hurricane, massive tornado, or a forest fire in our area. Floods are a possibility and have happened though rather rarely have they been of a major concern. Most of what we have been called to deal with are much less serious events. Such as weather events that have occurred that require observers who report to the Weather Service on the severity and location of storm systems as they happen. SkyWarn volunteers have been trained to handle this. Even those individuals have only been called upon a few times in the past.

So why all of the fuss? Do we really need to be so concerned about the possibility of major catastrophes in our area, or are we looking at the broader need to be able to go to those places where disasters strike and when the need arises for a communication link when all else fails? How many local Hams have answered the call to help? Who would request that help and how would we respond? Is what we have in the way of resources and people ready to answer that call? Will such a call ever happen? Is our "Emergency Communications Trailer" up to the challenge of providing a communications link should the need arise? It seems more likely that what we will depend on to report on events to the authorities is what we can do through our own portable transceivers and our repeater. I might be wise to assemble a "Go Box" to aid in being able to be prepared for this eventuality. It never hurts to have the needed items close to hand and ready to go when an emergency happens. Sure, it would be good to have a mobile communication unit that can get on HF and talk to the world if needed, but how often would this ever happen? Wouldn't we be reinventing the wheel to do that? After all, isn't there already another local Amateur Radio organization who has such a mobile communication system? Won't they spring into action should the need arise? Won't that be enough?

73 de KC9HDS, Carl

(member, & contributor)



RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday, October 18, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM at Onalaska Perkins.

Officers Present: Steve W9DXE, Drew AB9NE, Shawn KD9KGQ, David KB9EWG, Carl KC9HDS, Rick KD9GVS.

Other members Present: Roger KA9BKK.



Approval of August 2021 minutes: David motioned to approve Sept 2021 minutes, Carl seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Drew made the Treasurers report, and it was approved. Made available by request.

Officer's Reports: David shared his experience with the .97 repeater on the 10-19 Sunday net. He experienced a lot of noise to the point of rendering the repeater unreadable on his end. None of the other net check-ins experienced an issue, so it was a bit of a mystery.

Committee Reports: Carl compiled and submitted a list of Trailer improvement suggestions that were taken from various members of the trailer committee and others. There are some very good suggestions on the list, which will need to be decided upon and approved.

Old Business:

- Newsletter articles – Drew volunteered to submit an article on Field Day “dupe sheets”.

New Business:

- Club Shirt update - The voted upon color of Dark Navy blue is not available at this time at Ad Concepts in our chosen style. They will check for us periodically. Shawn made a motion to give them 2 months from today to provide the requested color, and after that look elsewhere. David seconded the motion.
- November Program Night meeting on the 2nd - Steve and Kelley volunteered to produce a video on their J-Pole antenna construction. November's meeting will be on Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn @ 7:39 PM

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

UPCOMING Events for November 2021

- ◆ RARC Sunday Night 2Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for November are:
 - November 7, 2021 Wayne k0wlo
 - November 14, 2021 Shawn kd9kgq
 - November 21, 2021 Mark kb9ofk
 - November 28, 2021 Rick kd9gvs
- ◆ Saturday morning Ragchew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **November 2...**Program Night: Building a J-Pole antenna by Steve, W9DXE on Zoom. <https://zoom.us/j/99796168272>. Time: 7:30 PM.
- ◆ **November 9...**Morse Code training course. Every Tues for 10-12 weeks at 7:00 PM on Zoom. People interested can reach Drew, AB9NE at ab9ne@yahoo.com
- ◆ **November 13...**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 and any CSCE's you may already have. FCC now requires applicants to have a FRN number and an e-mail address.
- ◆ **November 15...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 6:30 PM, Onalaska Perkins. All members are welcome to attend.



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO

- For Sale: Astron 7 amp power supply, good overall condition. Good for 40 watt or less output transceivers. Asking \$15. Call/text Steve W9DXE at 608-487-5810.

* Send your Amateur related classified ad to Kelley, NLT the 26th of each month to 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. 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 2021 Board of Trustees and contact information.

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

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

Secretary.....Ron Severson, KD9OHQ Email...ronaldhseverson54@gmail.com

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

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

Trustee.....Steve Becker, W9DXE Email...sbecker54656@yahoo.com

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

Newsletter Editor.....Kelley Becker, KD9LQW Email...kelleyLL23@hotmail.com