

THE KEY



The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League

Repeater

146.970 PL 131.8



RARC Net

The club's weekly net is 8 p.m. Sundays on the 146.970 repeater.



Club meetings

Club meetings are 7 p.m., Tuesday, at Gundersen/Lutheran in La Crosse. They will be in meeting room 1 on the lower level of the clinic.

"Meeting of Elmers," advice, discussion and help is at 6 p.m. in the conference room in the Gundersen Clinic.



National Wildlife Refuge Week Special Event Station operators last year included (L-R) Roger Reader, KA9BKK, Gary Webb, NI9V, and Len Litvan, KC0RSX.

Take refuge Oct. 19 at Trempealeau NWR

The golden warmth of the sun, whispering grasses, rustling leaves and the honk of fleeting geese combine with the crackle of our radios Saturday, Oct. 19, for the Riverland Amateur Radio Club's fourth National Wildlife Refuge Week Special Event Station.

Once again the RARC will join with the Winona Amateur Radio Club at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge for the day long operating event. Our call continues to be "K9P" and we'll be one of at least five refuges operating.

The originators of the event will be N8W from the Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan. Others will include W8W at

Directions to refuge
From La Crosse take hwy. 53 north to hwy. 54 west. Follow 54 west to Centerville and continue 3.1 miles to West Prairie Road. Turn left on West Prairie Road and drive one mile to the refuge entrance. Take the auto tour loop to the Prairie View Trail parking lot.

the Whitefish Point National Wildlife Refuge also in Michigan; N1UW in Minnesota; N5B at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico; and W9TCH at Wisconsin's Horicon National Wildlife Refuge.

Past experience at the Trempealeau Refuge has been acclaimed for operating, good food and good company.

There have been the usual run of contacts as well as highlights with Boy Scouts operating in their Jamboree On The Air, QRP QSOs and European contacts.

All licensed amateur radio operators are invited to participate.

The Trempealeau refuge is at W28488 Refuge Rd., Trempealeau, Wis. 54661.

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Calendar

Tue. Oct. 2

→ Riverland Amateur Radio Club, 7 p.m., Gundersen Lutheran, La Crosse, lower level one conference.

→ South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Auction, 7 p.m., American Legion Post #434, 9327 S. Shepherd Ave., Oak Creek.

Sat. Oct. 5

→ Radio City's 27th Annual Yaesu Event, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Yaesu Executive Vice President of Amateur Radio Sales Dennis Motchenbacher, K7BV, will present the new Digital Stuff from Yaesu.

→ Simulated Emergency Test (SET).
→ California QSO Party, 1 600Z - Oct 6, 2200Z, <http://www.cqp.org/>

Thur. Oct. 10

→ 10 10 Sprint, 0001Z - Oct 10, 2359Z, <http://www.ten-ten.org/>

Sat. Oct. 12

→ Black River Amateur Radio Association Central Wisconsin Swapfest, 8 a.m. - noon, 103 W. Adams St., Colby.

Sun. Oct. 13

→ Sewfars Swapfest, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Richfield Chalet, 1271 HWY 175 Hubertus.

Sat. Oct. 19

→ Iowa QSO Party, 1400Z - Oct 19, 2300Z. www.waodx.org

Sun. Oct. 20

→ Illinois QSO Party, 1700Z - Oct 21, 0100Z, www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html

Nov 1, 2, 3

→ Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald Special Event, Split Rock Light House. www.radiobam.org



Venerable 'Sweeps' has anniversary

Sweepstakes is approaching and this year is special. It is the 80th running of this oldest of all domestic contests! Now is the time to start planning because there will be a few new corners to "Sweep" this year:

- A new web based log submission page
- Individual operating achievement awards
- Special club participation awards
- Commemorative 80th Running Sweepstakes tee shirts
- Clean Sweep mugs and participation pins with SS80

logo

Are you or do you know an operator 80 years old or older? There will be special recognition of "four score" operators this year! Watch the Sweepstakes web page for updates, announcements, and more information about this special running of the contest.

CW: Nov. 2-4.

Phone: Nov. 16-18.

Contest Period: Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

VE testing for licensing

The RARC will continue providing VE testing for licensing. The required ARRL fee remains \$15.

The year's final tests will be administered Saturday, Nov. 9.

Those wishing to test must contact Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783 0723 or readers@centurytel.net, to register five days in advance. No walk-ins.

The session will begin at 9 a.m. at the American Red Cross office, 2927 Losey Blvd. S., La Crosse.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 621

Onalaska, Wis. 54650



President Greg Miller, KA9FOZ

Vice president.... Van Elston, WA9FIO

Treasurer..... Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ

Secretary..... Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

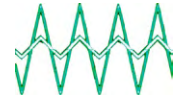
Newsletter editor.. Bob Seaquist, KC9IWE

Address correspondence regarding the club to Tom O'Brien, WB9BJQ, wb9bjq@charter.net

This newsletter is sent by e mail to current and past RARC members and others. If you wish to change your address or subscription, e mail KC9IWE@arrl.net

President's Frequency Modulation

By Greg Miller, KA9FOZ



Well, there it is, a BC 312 N. A 1946 vintage army radio. Probably one of the reasons that I became an amateur radio operator. When I was just a kid my Dad put a radio just like this in my room and told me to have fun with it. "Try different antennas and the different bands," he would say.

Well I tell you, I had many good hours in front of that radio. If any of you remember these radios and the big band change knob, it was quite a chore just to rotate it. Especially at the young age that I was. Sometimes I think some of my friends would come over just to turn that knob and hear and feel the "clunk" as it moved to the next band. You could

say that this radio was my modern day video games. Being sent to my room for being naughty meant spending more time on the radio.

That didn't happen very often as I am sure that I was a well behaved child. I remember this one time....well we won't go there.

I am sure the main reason I got into Ham radio was because of my Dad's influence. Watching him build Heathkits and seeing them come to life was a thrill for me.

I just wanted to show this radio to all of you and I am sure some of you have seen or may have had one of these. I thought it might be of interest to

you. This particular radio is missing its power supply. Not sure what I am going to do with it right now. Maybe someone would like to give me some advice. I understand that the radio does work and just needs the PS. If nothing else, because this is the radio I grew up on, it would look good on the shelf in my shack. Of course I would have to reinforce the shelf to handle all the weight. Even with out the power supply it is very heavy. If anyone wants to see such a radio in action you can check out YouTube and type in the "BC 312 N" and a video will come up on it.

Operating Tip

As you undertake your pre contest season shack cleanup, consider the layout of accessories such as switches and controllers. To minimize mental errors, the accessories should follow the general layout of the main radio equipment. If you use two radios during a contest, the accessories should be arranged in the same general way as the radios left/right or above/below.

Equinox helps polar paths

The fall equinox should improve conditions over the poles. This is a great time to try out the polar paths that have been diminished all summer. Try the Scandinavian Activity Contest Oct 12 and put some OH/LA/SM/OZ contacts in your log!

The Enchantment of DeForest

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

For more than 100 years the world has been a more exciting and enchanted place because of those invisible webs that have linked people from all over to each other in ways that it normally would have been impossible to do. Literally millions of people have benefited from the advantages afforded them by the advent of radio. Suddenly it was possible for a fisherman in Maine to communicate with a land based radio operator in New York, or for a rancher in Montana to link up with a farmer in Nebraska. At first it was a sketchy task that was more miss than hit, but with time and the efforts of people like DeForest and Armstrong even the least able radio operators could listen to stations around the country and some times around the world. When you think about what it must have been like for those early radio users to be able to hear anything, much less transmit for very far, it must have been a real wonderment when they succeeded.

Today we take a lot for granted in our extremely hi tech world. There are many who wouldn't want to spend the time and effort to communicate via radio. After all it is so much easier to go on line to Face Book, My Space or Twitter to make your social connections. Many people find this so easy and so fulfilling. To me these methods of communication may be a bit too easy and as a result may be a bit too revealing.

One of the things that I like about amateur radio is the serendipitous nature of this media. It is a bit like fishing; when you want to make a connection, you throw out your CQ and with luck, you connect with someone on the other side of the world. You seldom know who you will be talking with, but you know that who ever it is, they are

a Ham just like you and the contact is immediate and personal, even if others maybe listening in and may even join in, which can be fun too. With online messaging, you also are throwing out a message to who ever is out there, but the big difference is that you never know what sort of person is receiving it on the other end and since your message is recorded online, it has an undetermined life span. This too I find distressing, as I often change my mind about things and having a statement emblazoned on line, it is some times hard if not impossible to retract what you have sent.

It is too bad that there aren't more people out there who have discovered the sheer pleasure of Amateur Radio. A QSO can be a conversation with a friend that you have just met, a rag chew with an old friend from far away, or the opportunity to help some one in distress. To me the underlying reason for Amateur Radio is to fulfill the need to help others out who are in need. Whether that need is moral support through listening to their troubles, sharing a special event that they have experienced, or expressing your own feelings or ideas about what interests you; Ham radio can satisfy all of those needs and do it in a more immediate



way. A way that the online world can not even come close to matching on a level that only radio can do, with a personal and unique means that only hams can use.

When other forms of social media become obsolete, I'm convinced that Amateur Radio will still be here, continuing to give us the kind of enjoyment that the pioneers of radio have brought to us. The pioneers of radio are far too numerous to mention here, besides, most of you know who they are anyway, but it is good to pause and thank them for their efforts to bring radio to the world.

When you sit down to your rig in your shack, and as you power it up, tune to your favorite band and have a QSO with some one that you have never met or talked to before; remember to think about all of the work that so many people have done to bring the science and wonderment of radio to the enchanting level that we enjoy today.