

THE KEY

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



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, Wis. 54650

Repeater

146.970 PL 131.8

RARC Net

8 p.m. Sundays on the
146.970 repeater.

Club meetings

7 p.m., Tuesday, meet
ing room 1, lower level,
Gundersen/Lutheran La
Crosse. **Elmer session** 6
p.m.

RARC Web page

<http://rarc.qth.com/>



Club members, l-r, Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD, John Keiser, KD9FZX, and Scott Cross, KB3MKD, helped introduce the public to Amateur Radio at a National Weather Service open house Sept. 15.

NWS event shows Ham Radio

When the National Weather Service held an open house at its Granddad Bluff office Sept. 15 members of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club where there demonstrating Amateur Radio. Dan Abts, AB9TS, Kevin

Holcomb, KC9ZGD, Rick Kolter, KD9GVS, John Keiser, KD9FZX, and Scott Cross, KB3MKD set up an HF station for the public.

Propagation and the smart Ham

I ain't got poor propagation... I just ain't workin' anything!

Apologies to Yogi Berra. Dang ol' Sol isn't producing, and in some respects Hams are not doing their part either. Propagation is bad and getting worse according to Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. Speaking at the W9DXCC conference in Schaumburg, Ill., Luetzelschwab showed model predictions of sun activity and propagation slipping through 2020. He said there's a possibility the sun's cycle could be as bad as the historic "Maunder" period of the 1700s when sun activity was as bad as ever recorded.

What's an operator to do, turn off the radio and take up basket weaving? Nope!

Contesters and DXers plan to emphasize the basic rule of Amateur Radio: Listen. Luetzelschwab advises Hams to monitor Packet Cluster, beacons, WSPRnet <http://wsprnet.org/drupal/wsprnet/map> PropNET <http://propnet.org/index3rp.shtml>, DXMAPS www.dxmaps.com/spots/map.php and the Reverse Beacon Network.

Savvy operators are checking their low band antennas and, if possible, having wires and aluminum for 160m. There may be activity from time to time on the higher bands so smart operators will check on line propagation resources as well as go on the bands and listen, says Luetzelschwab. However, "40m is the new 20m," he adds.

License testing

The last license testing offered by the club this calendar year will be 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Church of Christ, 3506 28th St. South, La Crosse.

Register at least five days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608



Calendar

Tue. Oct. 4

➔ Riverland Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., Gundersen Clinic, La Crosse, lower level conference room 1. “Elmer” session, 6 p.m.

Tue. Oct. 18

➔ Riverland Amateur Radio Club Executive Board meeting, 6 p.m., King Street Kitchen, La Crosse.

Sat Nov. 12

➔ Riverland Amateur Radio Club license testing, 9 a.m. the Church of Christ, 3506 28th St. South, La Crosse. Register at least five days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783 0723 or readers@centurytel.net.



Nominations sought

Leadership positions are up for election and nominations are sought.

New club bylaws call for six members to serve on the RARC Executive Board.

The changes mean board members elect officers such as the president from among themselves. The election for 2017 board is at the club's December 6 meeting.

Program suggestions

What kind of programs do Riverland Amateur Radio Club members want for 2017? That's the question on the agenda for the club's Oct. 4 meeting. Bring ideas to be tossed around, then look forward to an active and interesting year for the club. Here's a list of ideas to get you thinking:



- ❖ Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, is a world class DXpedition participant. He lives nearby and is happy to talk about doing radio in exotic and often bitterly cold places.
- ❖ Mobile set up display. Club members meet in a parking lot and show their mobile installations
- ❖ Emergency ARES/RACES Keith Butler, Tom Skemp City/county emergency dispatch radio system. It is a complex, expensive 800 MHz system.
- ❖ Go kit display and presentation. See what go kits are about.
- ❖ hands on make simple 2m antenna or long wire endfed
- ❖ HSMM MESH. Hams can repurpose an old router to do some amazing communicating
- ❖ QRP adventure operations
- ❖ Yaesu “Fusion” operation. A neighboring club has two of the new Yaesu digital repeaters
- ❖ June Field Day organization, radio & log orientation

Riverland Amateur Radio Club

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President Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD
 Vice president..... Dan Abts, AB9TS
 Treasurer..... Greg Miller, KA9FOZ
 Secretary..... Bob Seaquist, W9LSE
 Newsletter editor.. Bob Seaquist, W9LSE
 Address correspondence regarding the club to Greg Miller, ka9foz@gmail.com. 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 W9LSE@arrl.net

RARC from October 1985



On September 4, 1985, at 7:42 p.m., the regular monthly meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Craig Goldbeck. Minutes of the August meeting were approved as read from the Badger State Smoke Signals. The treasurer's report was approved.

RTTY Repeater Report: Duane reported that some changes were made to the RTTY repeater so it can handle any speed up to 110 Baud.

37/97 Report: The TV station borrowed the power supply from the repeater because of an emergency at the station, this resulted in a weak signal when switched to the battery back up. The power supply will be re-installed as soon as possible.

Old Business: The next scheduled exam session is tentatively scheduled for the middle of December. Anyone with a preference as to what night they would like see the exam scheduled, let Rick, KV9U, know as soon as possible.

A motion was made that we pay the amount requested for liability insurance to the insurance company by the September 15 due date. The motion was passed and the premium will be paid.

New Business: Rick has offered to teach a class for new Amateurs or to upgrade to Technician or General. If there is any interest, please contact Rick or anyone in the club so one can be scheduled.

Program scheduled was a Packet Radio demonstration by WA9SOU.

Total members present was 25.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg A. Miller
Sec. Treas. Riverland ARC

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Burcum	K9LBX
Greg Miller	KA9FOZ
Al Skwertz	W9QHN
Duane Fruechte	W9HWQ

Tom O'Brien
Ron Reed
Rick Williams
Hugh Barker
Art Osbourn
Craig Goldbeck
Van Elston
Bruce Bjerstedt
John Young
Dick Low
Jim Brooker
Ray Buhr
Knut Knutson
Bill Pike
Dallas Miller
L. F. Bentzen
Greg Martin
John Markos
Ken Weigel
Gary Webb
Jeff Fancher

WB9BJQ
KD9OY
KV9U
KOEJZ
W0JDC
N9ETD
WA9FIO
K9CUT
W9KAZ
K0JYB
N9DBK
AA9M
W9SFL
K9FYZ
K9LEC
K9EGO
WA9BIK
KA9LQF
N9CDT
N9DHQ
N9BRA

GUESTS PRESENT

Jerome Growkowsky	WA9HCZ
John Corstvet	WA9SOU
George Kroner	KA9HOP
Bob Pluntz	WD9FKV

-ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!-

We are seeking interest in starting classes for Novice, Technician or General class licenses. Anyone who would like to attend a class to upgrade or for review, contact Rick at 783-8028 or Greg at 781-4325. If there is enough interest, we will schedule a class at a convenient time.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Is there anyone who has been considering becoming an Assistant Technical Coordinator? The ARRL is now offering free starter kits to ATCs which include:

- (1) The ARRL Call Directory
- (2) 1985 Amateur Handbook
- (3) RFI book
- (4) CATVI Working Materials
- (5) Field Resources Directory
- (6) Field Forum newsletters
- (7) Blue ARRL Diamond lapel pin
- (8) ATC certificate and other goodies

You don't have to be a technical genius to serve as an ATC, nor are there reams of paperwork. All that is required is a Tech or higher license and be an ARRL member.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club**Tuesday, September 6, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 6:59 by President Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD

August Minutes Approved as read

Treasurer's Report Approved as read

Swapfest 29 tables, 85 admissions

Recommend room rental ASAP

NEW BUSINESS

Room Reservation. WA9FIO is handling room reservation at Gundersen for 2017

Skywarn Recognition day. Dec 3

National Weather Service Open House September 15

Effigy Mounds National Monument event report

Shack Share: KC9ZGD; Next Month: David Rusher,

KD9EPN

National Wildlife Refuge Special Event no longer exists. JOTA?

Repeater Use Permission for Winona Amateur Radio Club to use .97 repeater Sept 17 to support a bike ride

Rotary Lights Parade

Adjourn

Video Presentation on *Modern Electronics* followed the meeting.

Badger Weather Net calls

Do you enjoy using your hobby to work for a cause, e.g., ARES/ RACES,

SKYWARN, or Public Service events? If so, there is another one that could use your help collecting important weather data at your home for the National Weather Service, NWS.

Every morning a number of Wisconsin amateurs check into one of the nation's oldest NTS nets the Badger Weather Net, BWN, on 3984 KHz or via any of the Wisconsin WeComm repeaters <http://wecomm.org/index.php/wecommvoice> or Echolink W9YTR node to report the 24 hour high and low temperature plus precipitation and (winter) snowfall. This data is used by the NWS to fine-tune its WSR 88D radar precipitation estimate algorithms. It is also used to provide input to the NWS River Forecast Models, FEMA to determine amount of disaster relief, FAA, etc. A very worthwhile public service cause!

So, before you jump into your car for the ride to work, just check into the BWN and give your figures to the Pickup Station on duty. You're in and out in a couple of minutes! The BWN operates seven days a week 5 a.m. 7:15 a.m. For more information, contact Don Michalski, W9IXG, w9ixg@arrl.net.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club**Executive Board meeting****Tuesday, September 21, 2016****King Street Kitchen, La Crosse**

Present: Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, John Keiser, KD9FZX.

Called to order at 5:57 p.m. by Holcomb

MINUTES of Aug. 16 Board meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT approved

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning: Bob is looking for someone to facilitate strategic planning for the club

Rotary Lights: Dan will attend the Rotary Lights meeting in October.

National Weather Service open house: Kevin reported the club participated in the NWS event Thursday, Sept. 15. Participants included Dan Abts, AB9TS; Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD; Duane Cadmus, KC9AXP; Rick Kolter, KD9GVS; Scott Cross, KB3MKS; John Keiser KD9FZX. The set up was late and there were some problems with antenna set up as well as supplies.

Meeting Place: Dan reported contacting Festival Foods at its Village store. Further contact is needed.

WXOW visit: Bob promised to contact WXOW to arrange a club meeting there.

NEW BUSINESS

License incentives: Board agreed that newly licensed Hams be given a complimentary membership in the club for the balance of that year following passed practice; the board rejected a suggestion that upgraded members be given a cash reimbursement for testing costs.

Trailer organization: Kevin noted the trailer is not organized and that some items, such as barrel connectors are missing. Board agreed to stage a trailer work party to spruce it up. Date TBD

Holiday Party: Kevin reserved Schmidty's for Tuesday, January 3. 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. dinner. Price is higher 13.99 + tax + tip.

Programs: board agreed club members would be asked at the next meeting to suggest programs for 2017. Bob will print list of suggestions in "The Key."

Technology teachers: Dan will supply Bob with list of local technology teachers so that he may contact them personally regarding Ham recruitment and ARRL Summer Tech School.

Apparel: John brought catalogs of apparel. He will present polo shirts at the October meeting to gauge interest.

ADJOURN 7:02 p.m.