



## SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

- Carl's antenna completion
- President's Upper Side Band

## The Ongoing Saga of the HF9V ...By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Where to start. When you think that you are lost, go back to the beginning and start over. That's the way that I feel now that it is over.

It all began last December when I decided that I really did need a new HF antenna. Oh yes, my Mystery antenna does work sort of. But it is rather iffy at times. So I took stock of my old Butternut antenna. I've had it for over 10 years and it has been battered and bent repeatedly over those years. It was a used antenna that I got from a friend. It needed a lot of work. I spent that winter researching that Butternut and rebuilding it. The result was a very good antenna for a long time, but it really took a beating and wasn't able to be rebuilt.

There are so many multi band verticals availa-

ble at all sorts of prices. It took a lot of research and different sources before I finally went with DX Engineering and a new Butternut HF9V. Mitch WBOGKH is the wizard of the Butternut antennas he agreed to help me assemble and tune it. So I ordered it in March, it was back ordered so it didn't arrive until late April. Right in the middle of the start of COVID-19. Mitch and I weren't able to get together to start assembling it until the end of May. I had hoped to get it ready for Field Day but that didn't happen so for Field Day I used the Mystery antenna. It worked OK.

Mitch worked his magic with it and we had it on a temporary old TV tripod so that we could tune it properly and it did work, but it wasn't the final solution as the Counter Poise Kit was only 3 feet off of the ground. So far so good, but not high enough.

My son Ted and his girl friend tried to help me get it set up, but all we were able to do was bend it up. So I had to straighten out it's tubing and try again later.

Next I needed to get it up on a more permanent base. Greg K9LEC stopped by to help and we were able to put it on a tip over base made by the Wind Turbine Company. It was more than adequate for the task, but the only mast that I had at the time was only 4 feet long so it still wasn't high enough.

Then my brother Dave came over and with the addition of an 11 foot steel mast was able to get it up high enough and guyed properly. Now it tunes all bands and is very stable. So ends the Saga of the HF9V, I hope. No Gremlins in sight!

73

## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

For the October club meeting I'm hoping to do a Zoom presentation on using Wires-X with the W9UP 146.97 repeater. The problem is that I sent in changes to Yaesu for the login and callsign but they haven't been totally processed yet. The new login works but the HRI-200 won't activate again since the ID on Yaesu's end still says WR9ARC. If this isn't straightened out by the meeting day, I'll demonstrate by graphing antenna analyzer. Watch for an email from me with the Zoom invitation a day before the meeting.

The program for the September club meeting was a NVIS test/demonstration with several stations around the county. This was an exercise in setting up a HF station with a low horizontal antenna for local communication on 40 or 80 meters. NVIS stands for Near Vertical Incidence Skywave. The antenna is set up so that the signals transmitted and received go almost straight up and down for communication within a few hundred miles. This is further than ground-wave propagation and fills in the gap left by other types of antennas.

In preparation for this Drew

AB9NE made a wire antenna that was essentially a half wave dipole for 40 meters and one for 80 meters fed from the same point. He and Rick KD9GVS set it up a few days ahead of time at Veteran's Park in the valley just west of West Salem on highway 16. He gave me a call on the phone and asked me to turn on my radio to see if I could hear him. I did hear him but not very well. I told him to hold on while I went outside and lowered one end of my end fed wire from the tower and stretched it out horizontally over to a nearby tree. Doing that made a big difference. 80 meters worked better than 40 but both worked.

Since I planned to go to Goose Island County Park for the event I figured I

had better try that out in advance as well. I drove up to Greg K9LEC's place and borrowed a half wave 40/80 meter trapped dipole from the club's trailer. This is the one Ron W9EOA SK made and donated to the club. Back at my house I found some rope for the ends and a 10 foot section of PVC and a post for the center support. A few days later got Drew to set up at Veteran's park again and I went down to Shelter #1 at Goose Island County Park. I put up the antenna between a tree and a post for the volleyball net with the PVC pipe as the center support. I had some trouble tuning until I added 50 feet of feedline to get my rig further from the antenna. Once again 80 meters worked better than 40 but both worked. 80 was so good Drew commented that I sounded like I was on the repeater. On my end he was strong as well so I was able to adjust my radio to get rid of all the background noise.



President Dan Abts, AB9TS working the NVIS station.

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On the evening of the club meeting there was a chance of rain so I set up the antenna between two trees closer to the shelter. I used 100' of feedline so I could sit on a picnic table under the overhang of the roof. Charlie KB9HSI came and helped communicate to others on the repeater where we were on HF. Bob W9LSE took pictures and Scott KB3MKD stopped by once we were underway. Drew AB9NE, Rick KD9GVS and David KB9EWG were at Veteran's park. The bands were in poor shape. 40 meters was a real struggle. Even 80 meters was now very noisy and barely usable. I was able to communicate with Shawn KD9KGQ in Holland Estates in Holmen who was using the club's other half wave 40/80 dipole. I also talked with Steve W9DXE and Kelley KD9LQW near Leon in Monroe County. Dan WK0W from Winona with a G5RV antenna checked in as did Wayne KD0WLO in La Crescent, Roger KA9BKK in Onalaska, and Ron KD9OHQ in Trempealeau. I learned later on that some others like Carl KC9HDS and Ken W9GM could hear us but we didn't hear them.

It was a good learning experience. I discovered a flaw with one of my antennas that I have since corrected. I found that the 40/80 dipole from the club required me to use my external tuner on 80 meters so there is something not quite right there either. I learned that band conditions can still be a big factor even with NVIS communication. It was fun. I hope we can do this again sometime. I have two other antennas I would like to try.

Feel free to contact me with comments and suggestions at [AB9TS@yahoo.com](mailto:AB9TS@yahoo.com).

73 de Dan Abts AB9TS



Scott Cross, KB3MKD and Charles Durham, KB9HSI working with Dan at the NVIS Station.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2020

RARC Sunday Night 2Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for October are:

October 4, 2020	Shawn kd9kgq
October 11, 2020	Carl kc9hds
October 18, 2020	Mark kb9ofk
October 25, 2020	Rick kd9gvs
November 1, 2020	Kevin kc9zgd

October 6...Program Night, a Zoom presentation on using Wires-X with the W9UP 146.97 repeater.

October 19...Trustee Meeting held virtually. Contact one of the Trustees for info on joining in.

## 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.

Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Greg Miller at KA9FOZ@gmail.com.

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club maintains a website at [rarc.qth.com](http://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 LaCrescent, 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 401 West Avenue in LaCrosse.

Below are listed your RARC 2019 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS Email...ab9ts@yahoo.com

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

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