

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, meeting room 1, lower level, Gundersen/Lutheran La Crosse. **Elmer session** 6 p.m.

What you are

There are limits to your responsibilities as an emergency communicator, and it is important to know where to draw the line.

You are not a "first responder." You will seldom be first on the scene. You do not need flashing lights and sirens, gold badges, or fancy uniforms.

You have no authority. The decisions you can make are whether to participate or not, and those affecting your own health and safety.

You are not in charge. You are there to temporarily fulfill the needs of an agency whose communication system is unable to completely do its job.

Do we need ARES?

By Tom Skemp, NF9E, La Crosse County Emergency Coordinator

I get asked whether we need ARES occasionally, and even have heard active hams comment that "we don't need ARES in this area, we never get any severe weather, and especially not with all the robust government and commercial communications available."

We are blessed or lucky that we don't get a lot of very severe weather in this area. But the tornado that hit town a couple of years ago never got that memo, and the people that run those robust government communications systems are the same people who request ARES assistance, and not just for emergencies.

Amateur radio has supported weather and emergency services for the whole of its existence. In La Crosse County, every time we have been called on the response has always been nothing but incredible. We have been able to support the National Weather Service in storm spotting and country emergency management in every large scale drill for the past many years. When called on, local hams always respond rapidly and with great enthusiasm.

So with two clubs in our county, that both respond selflessly whenever asked, what then is the point of ARES?

First of all, ARES can act as coordinating agency for requests for communications support for everything from bicycle and foot races to severe weather occurrences and flooding to casualty events with both immediate area and wide spread consequences. In severe weather and casualty events, ARES



operators are trained in the specific command and control structure that was implemented after 9/11/01 to overcome the problems of poor interoperability. In less critical events, the ability to call on a larger group and have a structure and plan to implement communications needs can make coordinating the whole event a lot smoother.

Secondly, La Crosse County ARES is formally connected to the State of Wisconsin ARES, as

well as the national ARES network and the ARRL, and through that connection access to support equipment in the event of a larger or extended emergency.

Thirdly, insurance. While participating in an activity or emergency for which ARES support has been requested, members have insurance coverage that is not available unless operating as an ARES support unit.

Membership requirements are not arduous, but there are a few necessities. Membership standards can be found at www.wi.aresraces.org/govdocs_membership.shtml, as well as much more information regarding ARES.

Borrowing from the ARRL web site, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service ARES consists of licensed amateurs that have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

For more local information contact Tom Skemp, NF9E, La Crosse County Emergency Coordinator, at nf9e@arrl.net.



License testing
 The club will offer license testing at 9 a.m. Saturday Sept. 10, at the Church of Christ, 3506 28th St. South, La Crosse.
 The final testing date in 2016 is Nov. 12.
 Register at least five days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608 783 0723 or readers@centurytel.net.

Swap Fest bigger and better

August's Swap Fest was a great success according to event chair Greg Miller, KA9FOZ. There were more tables, more tickets sold and a higher profit than last year's swap, Miller reported. In addition, the VE session tested three

individuals, two upgrading their licenses and one new Tech. The club rented two exhibit rooms giving more spaciousness and greater accessibility.



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 P.O. Box 621
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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



John Keiser, KD9FZX, left, and Dan Abts, AB9TS, make 40m contacts for the club's NPOTA activation of Effigy Mounds National Monument.

NPOTA activation a success

Effigy Mounds National Monument is a little, backwaters, soggy outpost of the National Park System in northeast Iowa near Marquette. Members of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club helped Effigy Mounds and the Park Service celebrate their centennial by activating it Saturday, August 27. We saw a beautiful setting and heard a lot of noise and a lot of chasers.

The club's official delegation: John Keiser, KD9FZX, Art Osborn, W0JDC, Dan Abts, AB9TS, and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, caravanned the 70 miles to Effigy Mounds on a bleak, rainy morning. The monument staff was welcoming so set-up

was not delayed and the operators were at work quickly.

The operating was from the club trailer using the Kenwood TS 570 for 20m and the Icom IC 718 for 40m. Antennas were a vertical, a Buddipole and an end fed 20m wire while logging was on two lap tops. Power was provided by the club's Honda generator. Logs must be submitted electronically to Log book of The World.

Conditions were not good though 40m took off and gave newly minted General Keiser a lot of operating experience. Later 20m opened some. The group logged 61 QSOs in about four hours of running.

Before deployment: personal safety first

Prepare yourself and your family to ensure their safety and the protection of your property well in advance of any possible activation; you may be required to report to your assignment immediately without being able to stop at home first. Here are a few things to keep in mind:



- Your family needs at least three days of non refrigerated food and bottled water.
 - Have a medical kit available and make sure your family knows how to use it.
 - Have fire extinguishers at home; make sure your family knows how to use them.
 - Make your family aware of escape routes from the immediate area. Give them a map.
 - Pre-designate a place for them to go: a friend's house or alternate agreed upon meeting place.
 - Have phone numbers in your wallet/purse for your family's alternate shelters.
 - Have alternate means of communication should cell/land line phone systems be down.
 - Consider registering with the Red Cross's Safe and Well service.
 - Keep valuable documents in a safe place or take them with you.
 - Have cash on hand for you and your family as ATMs will likely be down.
- These are just a few ideas; there are many more. Study FEMA's Ready web site for more. The above list was adapted from the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Emergency Communications excellent reference guide Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide AUXFOG .



Operators for the Effigy Mounds National Monument NPOTA activation included Art Osborn, W0JDC, John Keiser, KD9FZX Dan Abts, AB9TS, and Bob Seaquist, W9LSE.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club**Tuesday, August 2, 2016**

Meeting called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Vice-President Dan Abts, AB9TS

ATTENDANCE

Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE; David Peters, KB9EWG; Larry Worthington, KC9HDP; Dwayne Cadmus, KD9AXP; Rick Kolter; Scott Cross, KD3MKD; John Keiser, KD9FZX; Art Osborn, W0JDC; Bill Wood, KE9XQ; Dale Kinstler, KB9IPB; Van Elston, WA9FIO; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; David Ruscher, KD9EPN; Jacque Durnford, KC9ZGB; Gary Webb, NI9V

Dan led the Ham Prayer

Bob Seaquist, W9LSE, presented a NPOTA video.

MINUTES

Van Elston, WA9FIO, John Keiser, KD9FZX.

Approved..

TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented by Greg Miller, KA9FOZ. John Keiser, KD9FZX/Scott Cross. KB3MKD. Approved.

SWAPFEST

Greg KA9FOZ presented swapfest information.

SHACK SHARE

Dan Abts AB9TS. Next month's shack share will be Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill Wood, KE9XQ presented a club project for members for the ZZR receiver.

Bill Wood, KE9XQ presented a challenge for WAS.

Duane Cadmus, KD9AXP suggested an idea getting LEO's and other community members interested in HAM radio.

Adjourn. Dave Peters, KB9EWG

A video presentation on the fundamentals of electronics followed the meeting.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club**Executive Board meeting****Tuesday, August 16, 2016****King Street Kitchen, La Crosse**

Present: Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZDG; Greg Miller, KA9FOZ; Dan Abts, AB9TS; Bob Seaquist, W9LSE

Called to order at 5:50 p.m. by Holcomb

Minutes of July 19 Board meeting approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT approved

SWAP

Miller reported the Swap Fest was a success and others agreed.

ARES RACES

Holcomb and Tom Skemp, NF9E, met with area fire chiefs at their August meeting to discuss possible collaboration.

NPOTA

Seaquist reported that the club's National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) activation of Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry, Iowa, was approved by the Monument Superintendent for Sat., Aug. 27. Club members will use club equipment; the board agreed to provide food.

NWS OPEN HOUSE

The club has been invited to participate in the National Weather Service open house 2 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15. Consensus to be there.

PROGRAMS

Holcomb will make a presentation on scanners for the September club meeting. Seaquist will see if WXOW TV will host a visit by the club for October or other date.

ROTARY LIGHTS

Abts said Rotary Lights is a possibility again; board agreed to go ahead with participation.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Seaquist will see if he can find a university faculty member that will facilitate strategic planning.

ADJOURN 7:34 p.m.

Calendar**Tue. Sept. 6**

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

Sat Sept. 10

➔ 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.

Tue. Sept. 20

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

Call again later

Dennis Vernacchia, N6KI, suggests that when running, when you can't copy a station despite multiple attempts, do not just abandon them by just calling CQ. Vernacchia suggests saying "I can't copy you well right now, please call again later, or if my signal fades up." He wants that station to know they are very important to him and not just dismiss them with a "Sorry, no copy...CQ Con test!" He finds that most will come back due to that courtesy. "This technique could really pay off when you are winning contests by a small margin of QSOs."