

# THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club WR9ARC



The Riverland Amateur Radio Club is a Special Service Club affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. The club is active in community service as well as actively promoting Amateur Radio in the Coulee Region. The Club is open to all who are interested in Amateur Radio and will help unlicensed persons become licenses thru the FCC.

## RARC Swap Fest 2019

**Riverland  
Amateur Radio  
Club**  
P.O. Box 621  
Onalaska, WI.  
54636

**Repeater**  
146.970 PL 131.8

**RARC Net**  
8:00 PM Sunday on  
the 146.970  
Repeater

### Club Meetings:

**Trustee Meeting**  
3rd Tuesday 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**  
1st Tuesday of the  
month at 7:00 PM,  
Gunderson Clinic  
conference room 1  
in the lower level.

A lot of wheels had to be turning to make this year's RARC SwapFest to work like a well oiled machine. Months of planning and many hands at work to make it go. My part was small. All that I had to do was find a place to have it, reserve it and get all of the pieces to fit. The rest was up to the members of the RARC itself. They did the real work and they all should be lauded for their tireless work.

In the past this event has been held in the Onalaska Community Center, but that proved to be inadequate and often unavailable. So for a time it was held at The Church of Christ on South 28<sup>th</sup> Street in La Crosse. Thanks to Bill Wood KE9XQ Pastor at that church, who offered us the use of the community room there for free. That worked well for a while, but the event outgrew it, so for a time the Swap Fest was held in a side room at the Onalaska Omni Center. To start, the manager there offered it to us for a very reasonable amount as the room was available and nothing much was scheduled for it. The terms there were so good that we actually made money as a result. But as time past and new managers came and went it became more and more expensive to hold it there. Greg Miller K9LEC, was the driving force for it through those times, and he did an excellent job procuring it for the club and making it all happen. His efforts worked for a long time and we laud him for it.



**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 consists 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. 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 there 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 LaCresent, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.

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

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

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

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

Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ Email...ke9xq@charter.net

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

Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC Email...ka9foz@gmail.com

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## RARC CLUB PATCH ORDER FORM

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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ club patches to the address below. I have enclosed \$3.50 for each patch ordered.

Send patches to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and check to: RARC Box 621 Onalaska, WI. 54650



However, as time went on we were unable to come to a reasonable agreement with the Onalaska Omni Center, so a new venue was needed. Greg had done all that he could do, so it fell to me to find a new way. The thought occurred to me that the Onalaska American Legion Post 336 has all of the right facilities needed for our event. It has a large banquet room, lots of parking outside, easy access to restrooms and everyone could find it without too much trouble. So I approached the manager of the Legion Club facility, and was told that that we could have the room for \$400.00 per day (somewhat cheaper than the Omni Center, but still more than we could easily afford.) When I said this to him, the manager said that if a Legion Club member were to rent it, it would only cost \$150.00, so for the good of all, I joined the Legion and reserved the room. That was the easy part, and what I did most to make it work. The rest took a lot of work from a lot of RARC members to pull this thing off.

Our illustrious Executive Board stepped up and soon we had people who were going to take care of many of the details. If everyone pulled together, it would work. So they did, and it did. Oh yes, I was supposed to be "in charge," after all I was appointed to be the "Chairman of the Committees" by then President Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD. More a bit of Kevin's humor, but I took him seriously and assumed the job. When Dan Abts AB9TS was elected President, he insisted that I stay on as "Chairman of the Committees," so I agreed to continue. This would seem to be a high rank but it really means that I get to deal with the details and everyone else enjoys the results. I don't mind, it isn't rocket science, and I don't have any heavy lifting to do, so it works for me. It did take a lot of faith in the RARC membership, and in their willingness to do all of the real work. I admit that it was a bit dicey at first, but thankfully, everyone who said that they would pitch in to make it work, did, and it made my job very easy indeed.

There were some who thought that this couldn't work, there are always some who can't imagine a new way to do anything, but with the help of everyone, it did work and we had a very successful event as a result. Everyone that I talked to, liked the new venue, even if they didn't sell as much stuff as they would have liked, they had a good time and are looking forward to an even better RARC SwapFest next year. So thank you to all that helped out (too many to name here), and now we need to get things moving for next year's event. More on that later. 73, and I'll be clear, Carl Thurston, KC9HDS.



More Swap Fest pictures courtesy of Daniel Mckenzie, W9FCC



## ACTIVITIES FOR September 2019

September 1...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, KB9OFK.

September 3...Program Night at Gundersen Lutheran. Dan Apts, AB9TS on his lightning strike.

September 7...License Exams. Register 5 days in advance to Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 1-608-783-0723 or at readers@centurytel.net.

September 8...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Greg, K9LEC.

September 15...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Carl, KC9HDS.

September 22...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, KKD9GVS.

September 29...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Kevin, KC9ZGD.

October 6...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, KB9OFK.

## Can you copy at 20 words per minute by hand? By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, this email from the ARRL was sent to the CWOps mailing list:

**From:** Fusaro, Norm W3IZ [<mailto:w3iz@arrl.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2019 4:00 PM

**Subject:** W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate

Greetings Morse Code Enthusiasts.

I have some exciting news that I want to share with you! The ARRL has reinvigorated the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate program. Several things have changed beginning with our new sponsor, Vibroplex, a legend in Morse telegraphy equipment. If you see Scott Robbins W4PA and the Vibroplex team at a hamfest or convention please be sure to thank him for his support. The Vibroplex logo will appear on the newly designed certificates (see below) and in the award recipient page that will appear every month in QST.

That's right, each month in QST we will publish the most recent recipients of the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate, beginning with all the 2019 recipients. As a bonus, we are sending all the 2019 CPC holders a new certificate at no cost to replace their older style award.

The award is available to anyone who copies one solid minute of code during the qualifying runs. Complete program details can be found on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/code-proficiency-certificate>.

And to make the award available to more people we will double the number of opportunities to copy the CW text. Beginning September 2019, the qualifying runs will increase from twice per week to four times per week.

I am sharing this advanced notice with the Morse code clubs so that you can share it with your members. I have attached PDF files of the new certificate and the announcement that will appear in August QST, available in digital format July 8. I hope you are as excited about this as I am.

In closing, I want personally thank all of you who promote the use and proficiency of Morse code on the air waves and ask that you challenge your club members to submit their copy for the W1AW Code Proficiency Certificate.

73,

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ  
Director of Operations

Almost immediately after I posted this to my blog (at KB6NU.Com), my friend, Paul, KW1L, replied, "How does one copy legibly at 40 wpm?" When I replied, "Typing," he countered, "On page 98 of the July 2019 QST, it says, 'Legibly copy at least 1 minute of text by HAND...'"

To this, I replied, "Well, I guess you and I are both screwed then. I can't copy by hand at 20 wpm, and it's really not worth it to me to practice and get that fast. I'm guessing that I'm not alone in this regard. The upshot is that the ARRL is going to be sending out a lot fewer of these Vibroplex certificates than they think."

I then emailed W3IZ for a clarification. He shot back, "By hand is to mean not using a code reading machine." I suggested that he clarify this, both on the ARRL website and in QST. Of course, they haven't yet taken my suggestion, and the website still reads, "Copy one of W1AW's qualifying runs and submit one minute of solid copy (legible)."

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and is one of the presenters the ICQPodcast (ICQPodcast.Com). Feel free to reply to his CW CQs at any speed you so choose.

NOTE: You can find an image of the new certificate at <https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Code-Proficiency-Certificate-Vibroplex-768x597.jpg>

## Bill's Corner

Greetings Earthlings

Because we love 'Radio' sooo much, I thought we should look a little at the history of one of our favorite subjects. I'm taking this series from a book/magazine titled Radio Craft which is dated March of 1938, and republished several times mainly this one is 1996. The magazine was edited by Hugo Gernsback, editor from at least 1888 to 1938. I'll not quote the whole article here, but you'll get the most part, if you want more let me know otherwise we'll handle this article as a short series in The Key.

In the article "A Chronological History of Radio" J. T. Bernsley starts off with some estimation of time for the peculiar properties of amber and the effects it had on different things (of course sparks and static electricity enthralled most all of us). Thus the history seems to start out about 600BC There were many myths and false ideas during the passing years and scientists and experimenters left and right proved and dispelled previous ideas and science marched on.

The next part of the article is dated 1600 AD in which time frame William Gilbert... Think I'll quote this part of the article.

"Dr. William Gilbert, physician to Queen Elizabeth, and scientist. Invented the 'electroscope,' consisting of a straw which was pivoted like a compass needle, and which indicated the approach of a charged body. Disproved many myths, and compiled a list of materials which could be electrified by rubbing, coined the word "Electric", from the Greek root for amber-"Electrum." Conceived the earth as a huge magnet, with magnetic poles and a field of magnetic force about it-thus laying a positive foundation for many scientific discoveries to come later."

The next part of the article goes to 1646 AD, anyone know how history changes at that time in our records? I'll keep that one for the next Key article. Thought I'd close Bill's Corner with the following clipped from the internet. here is Elisha Gray's receiver amplifier of 1847 for receptions from the Musical Telegraph. How does this baby work I might ask?

Thanks for your patience and

73 Everyone

Bill KE9XQ





# **RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

## **Monday August 19th, 2019 Executive Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

**Call to order:** 2252 UTC, 5:52PM

**Members Present** : Dan Abts AB9TS, David Peters KB9EWG, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Drew Neve AB9NE, Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ, Bill Wood KE9XQ

**Approval of Minutes:** July 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 minutes approved as written

**Treasurer's Report:** Available upon request from Drew, AB9NE

### **Committee Reports:**

⚡ Drew gave a preliminary financial report from the Swapfest. Good reports were received regarding the new venue. Round tables vs. rectangular were an issue, will consider this for next year. Also may do something different regarding concessions.

Repeater Committee - not much progress so far, reading thru the repeater manuals is a lengthy process. The thought is the 146.97 repeater controller and/or the repeater itself will need replacement in near future. Bill volunteered to do some repeater/controller research. Also could contact area clubs for any recent experience with purchasing new repeaters/controllers.

### **Old Business:**

We may look into a new venue for Tuesday program nights. Wi-fi access has been an issue. Also RF not easily transmitted or received from the Clinic lower level.

Trailer update - no report

WIPOTA event 9-21-19 - Kevin contacted Perrot Park in Trempealeau. The Club trailer will be required at the event.

Fox Hunt - No progress on offset attenuator kits

Name Badges - Drew placed order with 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. awards

### **New Business**

ARES/RACES update - The thought is a new EC may be needed for La Crosse County. We may try to coordinate organizational meetings with Monroe Co.

September Program Night - Lightning Strike at AB9TS QTH

October Program Night - APRS and tactical radio for public events by Bob W9LSE

**Motion to Adjourn** : 0027 UTC, 7:27PM