

**RIVERLAND
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB (RARC)
LA CROSSE, WI**



THE KEY

ISSUE 9 FOR 2022

SEPTEMBER 2022

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2022 a Post Pandemic SwapFest...

It was almost like a home coming celebration. It even had hot dogs! Some said that it would never happen again. Some tried to ignore the possibility of it happening at all. Some were sure that if it did happen, it would be a real dud. But they were all wrong! In spite of all of the things that nearly derailed it, our SwapFest came off in spite of the date having to be changed and the necessity of rethinking how the concessions would be handled. Our membership persevered, thanks in part to the determination of our Executive Board and the continued hard work of our President Shawn KD9KGQ.

Our SwapFest was a bit smaller this year. Down from the attendance of previous years. There weren't as many sellers or buyers as in the past. But it did go well considering all of the things that happened that could have canceled it. The totals haven't been compiled yet, but the gate seems to be fairly healthy and the number of door prizes was substantial. There were a few glitches, there always are, but all in all it went well and everyone in attendance seemed to have a good time.

It all started at 0600 when the doors were opened and the room in the Onalaska American Legion was set up for the event. The room had been used the night before for a dance and reception. There were over 20 round tables and many chairs set up in there that needed to be removed and the rectangular tables needed for our event had to be set up instead. I was pleased to see that a number of our members were there to facilitate the change. With little ado everyone who came to help got to work and by 0700 the Legion Hall was transformed from a dance and reception format to one more useful for a SwapFest.

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UPCOMING Events for September 2022

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

September 4, 2022	David kd9epn
September 11, 2022	Rick kd9gvs
September 18, 2022	Wayne k0wlo
September 25, 2022	Shawn kd9kgq
- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **September 6...**Monthly club meeting at UUF La Crosse
- ♦ **September 19...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable (formerly Arterial Bar and Grill) All members are welcome to attend. Notice new time and place.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings to all Club Members,

First of all I want to thank all those club members that came out and supported our club's swapfest on Saturday August 20 th at the Onalaska American Legion. We had members show up at 6:00 am to set up tables for the vendors. Others were there to take entrance and table fee money and sell raffle tickets.

When some members had to leave their post to complete other tasks, others took their place to take up the slack. It was a team effort that contributed to the success of the event.

During this event I had the opportunity to meet Jason Spetz (KC9FXE) the ARRL - Wisconsin Section Manager. He is relatively new to this position and in fact it was his first official outing as a Section Manager. Jason was there for anyone wishing to renew their ARRL membership and answer any questions relating to the ARRL. In addition to meeting Jason and other attendees, I was able to sneak in a tour of the Mississippi Valley Amateur Radio Association (MVARA) bus all decked out with the multiple operating stations. I learned about some of its capabilities and future improvement plans MVARA has for the ham shack on wheels.

As we head into September, the only official club event planned is our Tuesday September 6, 2022 club meeting. At this meeting Roger Reader KA9BKK will be giving a demo on how to build a fox hunting antenna. It will be educational to see how Roger goes about building this antenna from various components, many of which can be found at a local hardware store.

On Saturday September 17, 2022 our friends in the Winona Amateur Radio Club will be heavily involved

in the Ride The Ridges bike event. There are a number of cell phone service dead spots throughout the bike course. This is where the WARC steps in and provides reliable ham radio communication services for this event. The event uses several SAG vehicles (provides safety and emergency road bike services, etc.) manned with a ham operator on the course as well having ham operators at rest stops to provide situational reports and supply requests back to net control.

While this isn't an RARC sponsored event our club plays a key role in the success of Ride The Ridges. Our club's repeater with its wide coverage is situated in an excellent spot to carry radio traffic for the lower portion of the road course. In years past WARC has asked permission to use our repeater to provide communications for the event. They have been granted permission again this year, and I ask our members to refrain from use of the 97 repeater on this day from the early morning to late afternoon. In addition our club has provided volunteers from its ranks to man the SAG vehicles and rest stops. I'm looking forward to volunteering in this event again this year.

Until we meet in person or chat on the radio, I bid you 73.

Shawn, KD9KGQ



NVIS Experiment

Emergency communicators wanting to make regional contacts—ones too far for VHF or UHF—turn to HF (High Frequency) radios and antennas set up for nearby contacts. An example would be a communicator in La Crosse reaching out to an emergency center in Rochester. Regular HF signals would jump way over Rochester so the solution is Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antennas which tend to shoot a signal almost straight up to the ionosphere so it will come almost straight down.

La Crosse area Hams led by Wayne Oliver, K0WLO, experimented with NVIS August 27 in what was called the “La Crosse Area emergency communication exercise,” attempting to make contacts from a portable station in a La Crosse park.

Before storms and rain shut down the exercise Drew Neve, AB9NE, made contact after contact ranging from N9ETD in Onalaska to Hams in Ohio, Southern Illinois, and Michigan. “We wanted to have an exercise to generate

interest,” noted Neve. He added, “we wanted to see if this (NVIS) is an effective replacement.”

Oliver explained that NVIS would be a good communication tool if, for instance, we would have a tornado and floods and we needed to communicate with Madison or Rochester.

Gear was simple: a 100 watt Yaesu FT 450 transceiver and a 40 meter dipole hung about five feet above the ground. A nearby volleyball net served as a great support.

On Facebook the group invited all amateur radio clubs and individuals in the Tri-State area, (WI/MN/IA) to test their NVIS capabilities on 40/80 meters.

“We are doing this to learn,” said Oliver.

Bob Seaquist



Captive in the Driftless



A Post Pandemic Swapfest ... (continued)

Most of the chairs were stacked and removed to storage, the round tables were closed up and rolled out of the hall and the area was vacuumed and the trash containers were removed. The large coffee urn was set up and the coffee was brewed, donuts were set out and hot dogs were cooked. Cold water and soda were made ready and the counter for the ticket sales was set to go.

The ARRL table was set up and the District ARRL Representative was ready to take membership renewals and pass out books and other gifts for those who did sign up for ARRL membership. The vendors started to arrive a little after 0700 and things began to be set up on tables for sale. By 0800, everything was pretty much up and going and by 0900 the VE testing was in full swing. There were three individuals who came to be tested and they all passed. It was all going as planned. The entry tickets were being sold, as were the tickets for the 50/50 raffle. The sales of the concessions was fairly brisk and people were meeting old friends again for face to face QSOs. Things continued in a fairly normal manner, as if the Pandemic never happened.

Some of the old standard sellers were there and a few new ones were too. There were Hams that came from as far away as Rochester, Eau Claire, Winona, Madison, and even the Twin Cities. Whole families including many youngsters were there and a very friendly atmosphere resulted.

Oh yes, it wasn't quite like it once was, but the 2022 RARC SwapFest was definitely a step forward compared to other SwapFest around the state. All of the members and friends of the RARC are to be thanked and lauded for their participation in this event. I'm sure that everyone who was there will be looking forward to an even better event next year. In the mean time the Executive Board and the whole membership of the RARC will continue to work to improve this and all of our events. As always, remember that we are all Hams and that we can transmit, if we have to, I guess.

73 de Carl kc9hds



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



Wanted: Articles for The Key

Please submit your Article by the 26th of the month and include "The Key" in the subject line.

Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net. Please Include "The Key" in the subject line.

Looking for items for this space

CLUB INFORMATION



Riverland Amateur Radio Club

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- * 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. Contribution articles should be submitted NLT the 26th of the month. Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Scott Cross KB3MKD@arrl.net. Please include the word "Key" in the subject line of your submission.
- * 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 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 La Cresent, 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 Fork and Fable 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 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 401 West Avenue in La Crosse.
- * Weekly "Breakfast Club" Ragchew on the 146.970 repeater on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Stop by to say "hi".

Below are listed your RARC 2022 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

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

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

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