

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

THE KEY



ISSUE 8 FOR 2024

AUGUST 2024

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Getting Greener...

I confess that I didn't think too much about going "Green," but when we bought our house over 40 years ago it came with an air to air heat pump that was somewhat disappointing. It eventually died and was replaced with a larger unit that was much more efficient and we have been very happy with it. I guess that that was the start of our going greener. Over the years we have acquired a number of battery powered lawn and garden tools that have served us well. Initially those lithium tools were replaced with others that were all of the same make so the batteries that they used were interchangeable, thus mak-

ing them much more versatile and usable. The list of battery powered equipment has become nearly all inclusive at our house. As a result we are slowly approaching net zero. It has become quite popular to strive for net zero, but again, it wasn't a planned change over.

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UPCOMING Events for August 2024

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

August 4, 2024	Rick KD9GVS
August 11, 2024	Wayne K0WLO
August 18, 2024	Mark KB9OFK
August 25, 2024	Jon KD9WPD
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **August 3 ...** Club Picnic, Goose Island Shelter 2
- ◆ **August 6 ...** Program Night: UU Fellowship Hall 7:00pm. Elmer time 6:30 pm
- ◆ **August 10...**Hams in the Park
- ◆ **August 20..**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

We've made it to the heat of the summer. Many of our annual activities are behind us, but there are a few favorites remaining. More on that later...

Before looking at upcoming events, we've got some club business that needs attention. As we move through the second half of the year, we get closer to the Annual Meeting and the election of officers that it features. That means looking ahead at what the club wants to do, and how those things should be done. I will be winding up my second year as President of the club, and I'm proud of the things we've accomplished during that time. We've added some new activities: Steppin' Out in Pink, and Hams in the Park are two that come to mind right away. I'm looking forward to Steppin' Out in Pink. I was not able to participate last year. The pictures I saw look appealing, and those who did participate report having a good time. It's a good way to interact with many members of our community with whom we don't often get to, and it is in a friendly atmosphere while supporting an extremely worthy cause. It doesn't get much better than that! As I'm writing this, I wonder if we could set up an exhibit of some sort to encourage walkers or others they know to get involved in our hobby. There I go, thinking again...

Hams in the Park has been a fun event giving a good chance to get out and try new things. I was able to put radio and computer equipment in a new combination at July's event and was able to make them work. Amos, KD9AHQ, gave me some help with that (thanks, Amos!).

Hams in the Park also served to try out equipment both this year and last year that helped to make our Field Day efforts more successful. It really helped in 2023 as we disqualified a park we had considered for Field Day. That could have really been a disaster!

Future Presidents might change their objectives for Hams in the Park, but I hope it will continue as an event. I have looked at it more from the standpoint of another chance to operate radios together; particularly on the HF bands. The public awareness piece is another aspect. I haven't promoted that much, but that doesn't mean it can't be done. I have also not set start and stop times. I don't want people to feel obligated to stay until a certain time, and I don't want people to feel

they should leave at a certain time if they're enjoying themselves.

We also started offering licensing classes again. It had been several years since that was done. We had a class this Spring with successful graduates, and we have another planned for October. I hope it will become a part of our regular calendar.

When I decided to give the Presidency a try, I identified two years as the time I'd like to devote to it. I had been apprehensive about trying it, but I'm glad I did it. I've enjoyed the experience and feel good about what the club has been able to do. I'd like somebody else to carry it forward in 2025, though. Change is good. Think about what you'd like from the club moving forward. I encourage anybody to give it a try.

Upcoming events:

Aug.3 Club Picnic - Shelter 2 at Goose Island; meal at noon.

Steaks provided by RARC; graciously prepared by the McCarty Family (thank you).

Please bring a dish to pass.

Plenty of room for anyone who wants to operate...

September 14 Steppin' Out in Pink - Riverside Park, La Crosse

Volunteers needed.

September 21 WIPOTA - Coulee Experimental State Forest

73

Drew AB9NE



Getting Greener... (continued)

The major change came several years ago when we needed to upgrade our lawn mower. I found it too difficult to deal with a walk behind mower, so I decided to get a riding lawn mower. Upon researching the various makes and models, I discovered a battery powered one that was highly rated and had the obvious advantage of not needing gas, oil, tune ups, belts, hoses or any other high maintenance needs and it was a lot quieter than conventional riding lawn mowers. It cost more, but nearly all of the cost for running it was all up front, so once paid for it costs little to use. Shortly after purchasing that mower, I discovered the the manufacturer was offering a sizable rebait which I got. With that rebait I purchased a snow plow for it that made it even more useful as it plowed the snow from my driveway and sidewalks with ease. It came with deep cycle SLABs that were good for 5 years. At that time, I decided to upgrade to lithium batteries, as they were only slightly more than the standard replacement units and were a lot lighter and much more efficient.

The next step was to get a lithium power station to power my shack. It is a fairly light unit that can run my radio equipment for and extended period of time in a mobile mode or it can also work as an uninterruptible power supply in my shack while attached to the mains, which is what I use it for mostly. It also worked well for various events that were set up in remote locations. I opted for that unit to try it out to see how it would work as an experiment of working off of the grid. It is an economical way to check out such a system. I would eventually like to get a

whole house unit that could make us truly energy independent and off the grid. Little by little we are moving in that direction, but it will take time to achieve that goal. Although our house is all electric, we still have gasoline powered cars. I have been considering replacing those with battery powered cars as well, but I'm waiting for more developments in that technology as it appears that things are advancing with EV design that will make them much more versatile and desirable.

Meanwhile, the thought of going solar is very tempting, but here again there are issues that require more research on my part and some added R and D by the industry before I can justify the expense of such a change.

Going green is becoming more and more appealing and the benefits of it are growing as time goes on. Over the years, we have improved the efficiency of our house's heating, lighting, insulation, windows and doors. I look forward to a time when net zero is not just a goal but a reality as well. The reality of global warming and carbon emissions need to be addressed. My little moves in the direction towards net zero aren't much, but it all adds up. If we could all do it, eventually things will improve world wide. As Hams, we are by definition tinkerers and experimenters, so it should be obvious to all of us that we have the unique skills necessary to achieve this goal. Think about it.

73 Carl



Arri.org, Update July 2, 2024

Effective 12:00pm ET / 16:00 UTC we will be returning [Logbook of The World® \(LoTW®\)](#) to service.

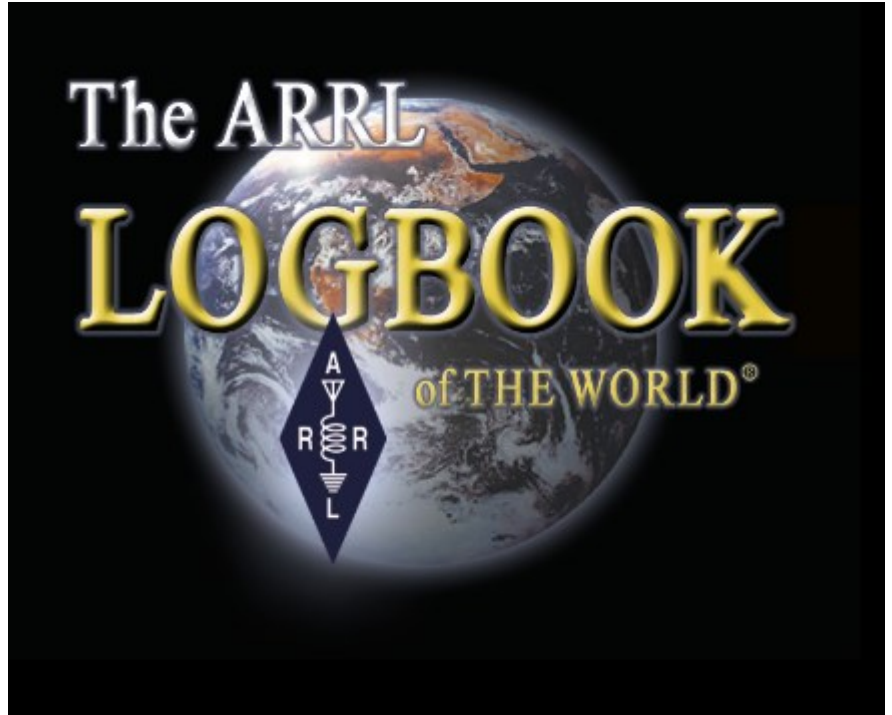
As work progressed on the network, some users encountered LoTW opening briefly during which some 6600 logs were uploaded. The logs were not processed until this weekend as we tested that the interfaces to LoTW were functioning properly.

We are taking steps to help manage what will likely be a huge influx of logs.

We are requesting that if you have large uploads, perhaps from contests or from a DXpedition, please wait a week or two before uploading to give LoTW a chance to catch up. We have also implemented a process to reject logs with excessive duplicates. Please do not upload your entire log to “ensure” your contacts are in LoTW as they will be rejected. Lastly, please do not call ARRL Headquarters to report issues you are having with LoTW. You can contact support at LoTW-help@arrl.org.

Through the end of the year, you may experience planned times when LoTW will be unavailable. We have been using this time to evaluate operational and infrastructure improvements we would like to make to LoTW. Those times will be announced.

We appreciate your patience as we worked through the challenges keeping LoTW from returning to service. We know the importance of LoTW to our members, and to the tens of thousands of LoTW users who are not ARRL members. LoTW, just behind *QST*, is our second most popular ARRL benefit.



When IT get involved in designing HAM radios 🤔



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



Wanted: Ham shack, antenna and other ham radio related pictures that can be used in the Key.

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.

Wanted: Articles for The Key

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

Looking for items for this space

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. 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 Tuesday of the month at Las Margaritas 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.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.

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