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What did you do this month?

On the 14th I went to Pammel Creek Park just east of Lacrosse on Hwy 33 for some POTA fun!



Dan, W9FCC



This month I helped a fellow Ham with an antenna project. I started learning my way around Winlink, although I wouldn't claim any proficiency yet. The same with APRS messaging. And, although not strictly Ham related, my son and I have been experimenting with Mesh radios, and are having fun with that.

David KE9BVE

UPCOMING Events for December 2025

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

December 7, 2025	Mark KB9OFK
December 14, 2025	David KD9EPN
December 21, 2025	Wayne K0WLO
December 28, 2025	Rick KD9GVS
- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **December 2...**Monthly meeting at UU La Crosse, 401 West Ave
This is the annual meeting. We are selecting officers for 2026
- ♦ **December 16...** Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

RARC Members and Friends:

Hello everyone, Happy Thanksgivings and welcome to the President's Corner. It's hard to believe how fast the year is going. Our next meeting is our Annual meeting where we elect or new board of Officers for 2026, and the January meeting will be The Holiday Party at

Schmidty's Bar & Restaurant

I have enjoyed this year serving as the Club President and I want to thank all the members for a good year.

I was sad to hear about Skywarn recognition being canceled that is always a fun event. So since Skywarn recognition has been canceled that makes our Next activity Winter Field Day at the ball park on Quincy street in Onalaska.

I will prepare a slideshow of a Year in Review for the Annual Meeting

I want to thank the 2025 Board Members for all of your work and dedication in making this a good year

A big Thank you to:

President.....David Peters, KB9EWG

Vice-President.....Amos Magnuson, KE9AHQ

Secretary.....Jon Melbo. KD9WPD

Treasurer.....Michael McCarty KB9HV

Trustee.....Drew Neve, AB9NE

Trustee.....Scott Cross, KB3MKD

Trustee.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS

Webmaster: Dan Abts AB9TS

I am looking for to what 2026 will have to offer

I hope to see everyone at the Annual Meeting God willing and my health holds up. I plan to be there unlike last month where I had to join via Zoom from the Hospital, So until I see everyone at the Annual Meeting have a good thanksgiving and 73

David KB9EWG your 2025 Club President



Noise Mitigation Pt 2

In the first of these articles about noise mitigation, we talked about the importance of ensuring a common ground for all parts of the components involved in the transmitter. Those components can be power supplies, impedance matching units for antennas, microphones, morse code keys, and computers. Computers are of particular concern when they key the transmitter as during digital mode operations or contest CW. The next things to consider are the cables that connect all the components. Cables are lengths of wire, just like an antenna. We want to take measures to ensure that we reduce the ability of those little antennas to pick up RF (Radio Frequency) energy and feed it into your transceiver. Multi-transmitter locations are hotbeds of RF energy by nature.

A cable picks up RF as a modification of the electromagnetic field that always surrounds wires that carry electrical current. Our goal in noise mitigation is to try to attenuate the RF in that current. There are several steps that we can take towards that attenuation.

1. RF protection built into cables.

- a. Look for cables that have those little cylinders an inch or so from each end. Those are ferrite beads that can be very helpful. You can find them in audio cables, computer cables, AC cables, just about any cable assembly. They are not universal, though. Be attentive and look for them when selecting your cable.

2. RF protection that you add to a cable.

- a. Snap-on ferrite beads are very helpful, particularly on audio cables. As you might imag-

ine, more beads provide more protection. If the passage in the bead when snapped shut fits loosely around the cable, you can wrap the cable around and get two or three passes through the bead.

- b. Toroid wrapping: toroids are often used as chokes to prevent unwanted RF from getting into your power cable. More winds around the toroid provide more attenuation.

- i. Toroid selection is a subject for an article (or two) itself. There are RF protection kits available from vendors like Ham Radio Outlet and DX Engineering that have toroids and snap-on ferrite beads for RF protection. Some are even organized specifically for certain transceivers.

3. Cable arrangement

- a. Keep your cables tidy on your tabletop. If you have an 18" or 24" cable connecting components that are right next to each other, do not just leave the excess lying on the tabletop or dangling over the edge of the table.

That encourages its function as an antenna. Wind the excess into a small coil so the cable reaches its destination without excess. The coil helps to choke the RF as well as reduce its exposure to RF.

Drew Neve, AB9NE



What Did You Do This Month?

I checked into the usual nets that I check into, and I conducted the usual VE Testing, and I got myself up and running on WinLink . David Peters, KB9EWG

This month I finally got my new Icom ID-5100 mobile radio programmed and up and running. Much thanks goes to Ken, W9GM for helping with this, Could not have accomplished this without his help.

Had my first contacts on D-STAR using the Galesville 442.500 repeater on reflector 019B. I didn't have a lot of interest in D-STAR until the Galesville repeater was upgraded, and recently another local D-STAR repeater was put in service in La Crosse, the 444.915 on Grandad Bluff.

Ken also helped me configure my Packet Winlink station, so I am now able to send Winlink messages via RF.

73, Rick KD9GVS



BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



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.

Wanted: Articles for The Key

Looking for items for this space

What Did You Do This Month?

I've been working on a linked dipole project, and last night I worked the SKS (Straight Key Sprint) for the first time in quite a while.,

Drew Neve, AB9NE

I cleaned up my coax run. I made a new 2" opening piped with pvc, so I can add with additional coax runs.

John, KD9TOR

I put up and tuned a 80/40 fan dipole.

Vic WT9Q

I helped assemble Vic's tri-band Yagi and tower at Ron's house. I also wound and installed a mix 31 choke for my 80/40 meter loop

at my house. I was getting some RF in my shack that was interfering with my logging computer on parts of 40 meters.

Dan AB9TS

I like to work special event stations and collect their QSL cards/certificates. This month, I worked the Radio Society of Tucson's Cactus Special Event, "Prickly Signals from the Sonoran Desert" achieving a "Clean Sweep" of all stations with the endorsement of "All Digital" (FT8). Great fun!

Lisa McCarty, KE9APN



Tower down in Winona

The Leighton tower owned by Leighton Broadcasting, which hosts the 64 repeater for the Winona Amateur Radio Club, blew down Wednesday, November 26, about 0900.



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 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. 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 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 La Crescent, 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 2025 Board of Trustees and contact information.

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

Vice-President.....Amos Magnuson, KE9AHQ Email... ke9ahq@gmail.com

Secretary.....Jon Melbo. KD9WPD Email melbo.jon@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Michael McCarty KB9HV Email kb9hv@icloud.com

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

Trustee.....Scott Cross, KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net

Repeater Trustee.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS Email...rckolter@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net