

THE KEY

feb 2019

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club



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 CHRISTMAS DINNER



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

Repeater 146.970 PL
131.8

RARC Net 8:00 PM
Sunday night on 146.970
repeater

Club Meetings
Trustee meeting 3rd
Tuesday of the month at
Perkins in Onalaska at
5:30 PM all club members
are welcome

Program evening is on the
first Tuesday of the month
at 7:00 PM at Gundersen
Clinic in conference room
1 in the lower level.

Two awards were given at the holiday party the Ernie Gershon memorial lift time achievement award was given to Scotty Neader KA9FOX and a special award was presented to Dan Rasmussen of WXOW for help with the repeater on the WXOW building. Dan was not in attendance the award was given to him later.



This was my first field day I got to see the club's radio's it was cold and snowing outside but was nice and warm inside the shelter I got to see some of the way's the group powerd there radio's and there antenna setup gave me some ides on doing my own field day go kit on the next field day.

Riverland Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

President	Dan Abts, AB9TS
Vice President	David Peters, KB9EWG
Secretary	Rick Kolter, KD9GVS
Treasurer	Drew Neve, AB9NE
Repeater Trustee	Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ
Trustee	Carl Thurston, KC9HDS
Trustee	Bill Wood, KE9XQ
Newsletter Editor	David Ruscher, KD9EPN

The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. Address any correspondence to:
davidw.ruscherjr@yahoo.com
Visit our website at rarc.qth.com



Testing for new Hams or upgrades for 2019 will be on the following dates:

February 9
May 4
September 7
November 9

Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurytel.net

Coming Events

- 2-2 RARC february program night. Carl will talk about the rarc 2018 archive cd. Jeff springer will give a presentation on home automaton.
- 2-3 Sunday night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:pm net control is Mark KB9OFK.
- 2-10 Sunday night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:pm net control is David KD9EPN.
- 2-17 Sunday night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:pm net control is Greg K9LEC.
- 2-19 RARC board meeting .
- 2-24 Sunday night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:pm net control is Carl

This year's RARC Holiday Party was held on January 8th 2019. at Schmidty's Restaurant For those of you who didn't attend, all that I can say is "Too Bad!" You missed one of the best, if not THE best RARC Holiday Party in my memory! There were 36 people who did attend. A social hour took place in advance of the meal, from 1730 until 1800. The beverages were selected and paid for by those who desired them.

Oh yes, it was the same menu that we have had for several years:i.e. The meal was served "family style," it included: A Garden Salad, (with choice of dressings,) Batter Fried Cod (it was very good, as always,) Beef Tips with Gravy (also very good,) Mashed Potatoes (nice,) WK Corn (fresh, sweet and tasty,) and all of that followed by a desert of Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream (that really hit the spot!) Several new members were there as well.

Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD, our out going President, was the Master of Ceremonies. In addition to greeting everyone as they arrived. Kevin did a good job of setting the tone and creating a nice welcoming atmosphere as we all enjoyed our beverages prior to the meal. When the meal was served, the staff of Schmidty's Restaurant did a remarkably smooth and efficient job of bring out and serving all of the courses of the meal. They also brought more food as needed through out the entire meal. Everyone seemed to have a good time and enjoyed the food and company there. I know that everyone got plenty of food, as more and more food came out as it was asked for, at all of the tables, until everyone had all that they wanted.

After the meal, Kevin presented two awards.: There was a Ernie Gershon Memorial Life Time Achievement Award that was given to Scotty Neader KA9FOX for his continued service to the Ham Community in general and the RARC in particular. His hosting of QTH.com, as well as the maintaining of the RARC's website, his continual introduction of all new comers to the local Ham Community, offering his expertise to all about things related to Amateur Radio. Scotty and his wife were our guests at this party, and was he ever surprised by being presented with this award.

There was also a Special Award that was to be presented to Dan Rasmusson of WXOW TV for his support and help with the 2 Meter Repeater that is located in the WXOW building. Dan was not able to be present to receive it, but Kevin said that he would take it to Dan at WXOW later.

After the Awards presentation, Kevin announced the winners of the "Guess the Number of M&Ms in two different jars. Then he proceeded to pass around a bucket full of slips of paper with numbers on them. Everyone got a number. Then he pulled corresponding numbers from another bucket and gave out prizes with those numbers. All of the prizes were basically unrelated to Amateur Radio and were not gender specific. Many of the prizes were humorous in nature and kind of fun to see who got what as a result.

Having completed the meal, the awards and the distribution of the prizes. Kevin wished everyone a Happy Holiday and told us that we could stay and visit or go on home. Many stayed so long that the staff of Schmidty's had to ask us to leave, as they wanted to clean up finish for the night.

Thus ended a very fine Holiday Party. It will be hard to top this party at next year's RARC Holiday Party, but I'm sure that who ever organizes that one will do their best to do so.





HOLIDAY PARTY

I would like to thank Kevin KC9ZGD for a wonderful party this year and the staff at Schmidy's for the good food and ths space to hold it.

It was a time of good fun and to visit with club member's that we don't see that much.I was not able to go this year but will have to make it a point to go next year I don't want to miss out on the fun and food and game's.





RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Tuesday Jan 15, 2019 Executive Meeting

MINUTES

Call to order: 6:15 CDT, 0015 UTC

Members Present : Greg Miller K9LEC, Dan Abts AB9TS, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ, Drew Neve AB9NE, David Peters KB9EWG

Approval of Minutes: December 18, 2018 minutes approved as written

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Drew, AB9NE and available upon request.

Committee Reports:

Winter Field Day: Carl reports all arrangements made, Greg will have trailer there by 11:00 on the 26th Jan, pending weather. Carl handling all food and beverages. Discussion ensued re. what antennas to erect at the site. Will decide that day, again depending on the weather.

Old Business:

Savings/Checking/cash audit financial summary complete and all in order, per Dan & Drew.

"The Key": Greg will follow-up with David R. on his progress.

The Holiday Party: Great success, 39 attendees, may consider a raffle for next year, possibly a different approach to door prizes.

New Business:

2019 Club Calendar: Very beneficial to see all Club activities/plans at a glance.

Program meeting topics: Dan will compile everyone's comments on topic preferences. The Feb. meeting topic will be Carl on discussion of contents of the Club archive CD.

Swap Fest 2019: Possible new venue may be Onalaska or La Crosse American Legion. Carl will contact Onalaska location, David will contact La Crosse and we will compare notes.

Carl suggested purchasing EMCOMM safety vests from the ARRL, for our upcoming events. David motioned to purchase (12) vests, Carl seconded. Drew will take care of ordering. Greg has Club patches for said vests, and will investigate getting those made.

ARRL Special Service Club registration and general registration with ARRL will be taken care of by Rick.

Club Membership Roster will be updated for 2019 by Rick, then will send the Excel file to Carl for his use.

Motion to Adjourn : 7:43 CDT, 0143 UTC



This year's Winter Field Day really lived up to its name. With outside temperatures in the minuses, it was a bit challenging to brave the elements and show up. The shelter was opened at 0900 and the thermostat was set to 70 degrees. It wasn't long before the Ball Park shelter on Monica Lane in Onalaska was comfortable if not cozy inside. As the stalwart members of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club began to arrive in preparation for this event, the club's radio equipment was hauled in and set on tables, and all of the needed accessories were made ready as the start time of 1300 approached. Those that gathered for this annual event, soon realized that it would take some determination to get it all together. Oh yes, everything was in good order in the shelter. The Onalaska Park Service people had made sure that it was clean, the appliances plugged in, and the restroom was well supplied with paper products. The first order of business was to set up a large urn of hot water for instant hot beverages: i.e. Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, or Apple Cider; for those in need of warming up and assorted cold beverages in the frig for those who were warm enough.

Once the amenities were in place, and the inventory of equipment was sorted out, a discussion took place to determine the best way to deploy the antennas, where to set up the radios, and what to use for a power source. Also, it was necessary to pick a category to use for the event. It was determined that we would operate using 3 Alfa for our event designation. There were several antennas that were brought along, some on tripods and some that were hung from adjacent power poles. Operating stations were set up including one in an ice fishing tent outside! Club members brought their own antennas and radios to supplement those that the club provided for the event.

As 1300 and the start of the event came, all were ready and several operators were in place. More Hams arrived as things got under way. A sign in sheet was there to keep track of those attendance. A lot of the regular members and some new faces helped to make this a successful event. Off to a good start, more people came and after a while, it was time for lunch, so some pizzas were ordered and brought for the hungry Hams as they continued to make QSOs. A rather celebratory atmosphere took place as more people gathered around, watching, eating pizza, and enjoying the company.

The day continued to wear on and more contacts both on and off the air took place. A couple of new Hams came seeking information about what kind of equipment to get and how to set up their own shacks. This event was good for this purpose, as there were examples of several different brands of HF rigs there, and the capabilities and features of them were readily available for those wondering what to get and how to use them. The RARC is very fortunate in many ways, not the least of which, our inventory of radios and radio equipment is fairly broad. The club has a Kenwood, an iCom, and a Yaesu; so one can get somewhat of an idea about how those various makes work. The new Hams asked a lot of questions and made notes for future reference and several experienced Hams offered to "Elmer" them.

We had rented the shelter until 2200 (the closing time of the park), but by 1900, the bands were going dead and the numbers of those present were dwindling so it was obvious that the time had come to pack it in. The members of the Executive Committee who were present all felt that it was a successful event in spite of the conditions of the weather and the fading of the bands. So everything was packed up and made ready to be taken back to the trailer. The shelter was cleaned up, the lights turned off, and this Winter Field Day was officially over for the RARC this year. All thought that this would be a hard event to follow, but even greater events are yet to be. 73, and good evening. See you at our next club meeting.

WINTER FIELD DAY



Drew operated from his ice shanty using a 40' end feed wire