



INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

<b>What Did You Do This Month?</b>	1
<b>President's Comments</b>	2
<b>Riverland Volunteer Exams</b>	3
<b>Winter Field Day 2026</b>	4
<b>What Did You Do This Month?</b>	5
<b>Buy, Sell, Trade, ISO</b>	5
<b>Club Info</b>	6

This month I purchased an MMVDM Hotspot Pi-star Dongle for digital modes. With a good bit of Elmering from Ken W9GM the hotspot is up on Dstar REF014B Reflector. So any Dstar users or other digital modes this is an inexpensive way to start. Ronald H. Severson, KD9OHQ

This month, I earned the QRZ's "America 250" award. This award celebrates America's 250 birthday by obtaining 250 confirmed contacts through the QRZ logbook. I was able to complete this within 17 days. I am also working on the Logbook of the World's "America 250 Work All States" award. Region 1 seems to be my achilles heel, but hopefully I can catch them in some up-coming QSO Parties. This one has multiple endorsements we can get, by contacting mobile W1AW stations throughout the year. You can find more information about this event in your Jan issue of QST, page 76 OR the Jan/Feb issue of On The Air, page 16. Lisa McCarty KE9APN



## UPCOMING Events for February 2026

- RARC Sunday Night 2 Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for February are:
  - February 1, 2026 Rick KD9GVS
  - February 8, 2026 Jon KD9WPD
  - February 15, 2026 Mark KB9OJK
  - February 22, 2026 David KD9EPN
- **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- **February 3**...Monthly Members meeting, UU La Crosse, 7:00pm.
- **February 17**... Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

RARC Members and Friends:

Hello everyone and welcome to the President's Corner. We are off to a great start for 2026.

It was great seeing everyone at the Post-Holiday Party and Winter Field Day. Now I am looking forward to helping with the St. Patrick's Day parade and I am hoping to make it to the Wisconsin QSO Party, Unfortunately I missed both events last year due to a respiratory infection.

The next meeting is the February Program night. I am not sure what the next program is but we are always looking for presenters for the program nights, and I want to continue the Shack Share presentation for the program nights.

We are planning different events for the year. We hope have the next ham class planned. We will continue with the Hams in the Park and other events. Well I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming February Meeting and upcoming events, 73 from

David Peters KB9EWG,

your 2026 Club President



# Riverland Volunteer Examiner Program

## The Volunteer Examiner Program

## License Classes

When you became an amateur radio operator, We are putting together classes for people you took a test. If you took that test a long time ago, it was administered by an FCC employee, but if you took the exam more recently, it was done by a group of hams that were volunteer examiners. There are a couple of guys already in a study group I will be facilitating for people looking to upgrade from general to extra. If you would like to upgrade your license, please contact me at [crossconnects@gmail.com](mailto:crossconnects@gmail.com). We can schedule a class and /or a test.

Volunteer Examiners (VEs) are US licensed Radio Amateurs holding a General Class license or higher, who offer their time to administer the FCC licensing exams through a FCC authorized Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization. The ARRL VEC is the largest VEC organization in the US. A team of three or more VEs are able to test candidates applying for a new license or upgrading an existing license. Riverland ARC is affiliated with the ARRL VEC.

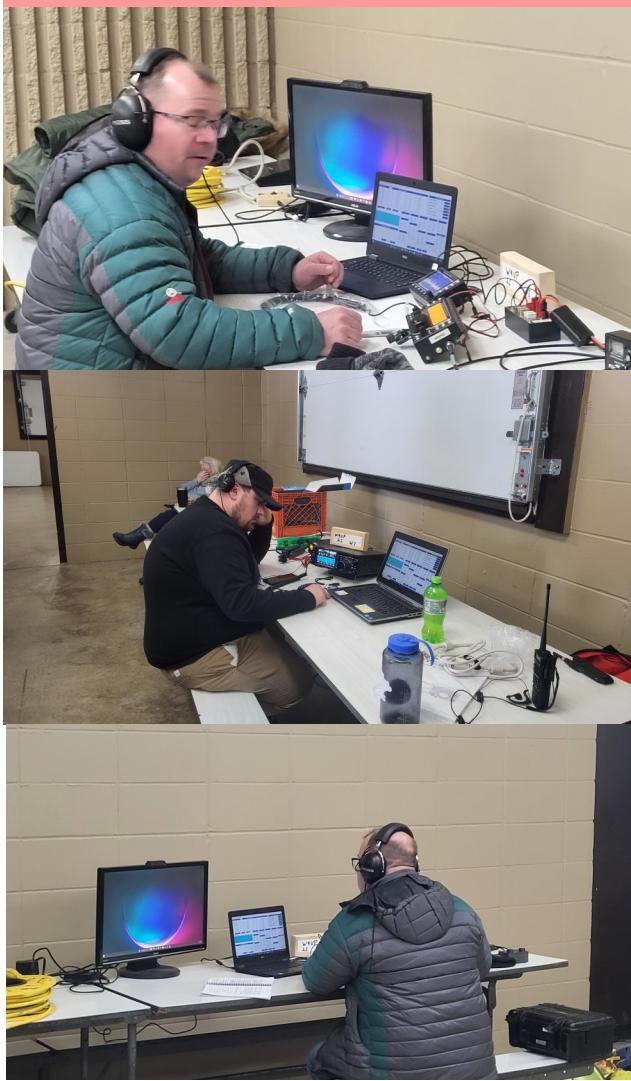
Scott Cross  
KB3MKD



Currently, Riverland has a few VEs that are retiring out of doing exams. We need some new blood. If you would like to help, please contact me at [crossconnects@gmail.com](mailto:crossconnects@gmail.com). You need at least a general class license to administer exams to new hams.

In order to be a VE to test candidates applying for a General class license, you must have at least an Advanced class license and in order to test candidates applying for an Amateur Extra class license, you must have an Amateur Extra class license.

# Winter Field Day 2026



## Attending Winter Field Day 2026

Dan Abts AB9TSD

Rick Kolter KD9GVS

Scott Cross KB3MKD and XYL Kathy

David Peters KB9EWG

John O'Neill KE9ECY

Drew Neve AB9NE

Mike McCarty KB9HV

Jon Melbo KD9WPD and Jeanine

Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ

Ron Severson KD9OHQ

Amos Magnuson KE9AHQ

John Zinn



## What Did You Do This Month?

I did the usual nets and testing that I do, but I am looking forward to Winter Field Day. David, KB9EWG

I built my first HF antenna with the help of the McCarty family. The first contact we made after finishing it was Venezuela, which was fun. Saturday was my first field day. John O'Neill KE9ECY

I got back on 2m packet radio learning and exploring the different computer programs and commands. I played around with testing a few magnet mount mobile antennas for 2m/70cm. I also got my SDR back up and running and monitoring some of the HF bands. I was happy to join at to Winter Field Day had a great time visiting and made some contacts! Amos KE9AHQ

I applied for my mixed ARRL WAS certificate. John KD9TOR

I found a stand for my FTM400 control head and used a 3D printer to make it. I like this one since I can adjust the viewing angle. The rubber feet I put on the bottom keep it from sliding around on the desk.

Dan AB9TS



## 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](mailto:kb3mkd@arrl.net). Please Include "The Key" in the subject line.*

*Wanted: Articles for The Key*

**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](http://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 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.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com  
 Secretary.....Lisa McCarty, KE9APN, Email lisarmc@aol.com  
 Treasurer.....Michael McCarty KB9HV Email kb9hv@icloud.com  
 Trustee.....Jon Melbo. KD9WPD Email melbo.jon@gmail.com  
 Trustee.....David Gauney, KE9BVE, Email berrycityberries@gmail.com  
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