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The Beat goes on...

This year's RARC SwapFest was some what smaller than some of the past events, but it is evidence that it is still there and it is a viable event. Some changes had to be made to accommodate

this event. It was held in Stoddard, WI at the American Legion Hall this year as some of the other possible sites were unavailable. In addition to the sales event there was supposed to be a VE test session of 4 testing, but as it turned out there were 7 who came for the test session. Of those being tested, 5 passed, one took both the Tech and General level tests and was successful in both tests. There were 3 tested for Extra and 2 of them passed. So the VE test session was fairly successful. Congratulations to all who passed!

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UPCOMING Events for July 2024

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

July 7, 2024	Wayne K0WLO
July 14, 2024	Mark KB9OFK
July 21, 2024	Jon KD9WPD
July 28, 2024	David KD9EPN
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **July 2...**Program Night: UU Fellowship Hall 7:00pm. Elmer time 6:30 pm
- ◆ **July 13...**Hams in the Park
- ◆ **July 16...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.
- ◆ **August 3 ...** Club Picnic. Goose Island, Shelter 2.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

This has been quite a month for the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. We've recently finished a couple of our biggest events of the year; our annual Swapfest, and our Field Day.

The Swapfest was held at the American Legion Post in Stoddard. The facility was very supportive and met our needs very well. The attendance was admittedly not what we would have liked. It was not even at the level of what we have become accustomed. There are several variables at play, so it's hard to identify the cause definitively.

In my opinion, the cause was largely publicity. We had another very nice facility in 2023, and were told that we could use it on an "as available" basis. We would not be able to lock in the reservation until later in the Spring of 2024, and it turned out that the weekend we sought would not be available to us. That inhibited our ability to publicize. There was also a failure on the part of the ARRL to post the event on its Swapfest Tracker until six weeks after I submitted for the event to be included.

We discussed the issue at the June Board meeting. The Board is resolved to prevent this from happening again and will ensure that publicity gets out in a timely manner for the 2025 Swapfest.

On the plus side, conversation was lively at the Swapfest. Those who attended enjoyed visiting with folks. There was also a great deal of enthusiasm from the VE examining session that was held concurrently.

That enthusiasm leads us to Field Day. Some of the new licensees joined us at Field Day, were enthusiastic about seeing the equipment we were setting up, and also about getting on the air. There was a lot of activity at the GOTA station. That is exactly what we hope to see, and we're thrilled that it happened.

The activity was lively at the other transmitters, too. We had almost 400 QSOs on the day, and I believe we were able to successfully contact all 48 continental States. I don't remember a Field Day where that was achieved.

The QSOs we had were a fairly even mixture of CW, SSB, and digital. For those keeping track, the new FTdx-10 that the club purchased worked admirably and was part of our Field Day success.

The food we had at Field Day was exceptional this year. The meal adoption worked very well. The chili, steak, eggs, and BBQ pork were all very well received. The additional cookies and donuts available gave the operators that extra oomph to get that last QSO. Do yourself a favor and make it a point to attend the upcoming picnic. We've asked for the steaks to make another appearance.

I apologize for the confusion that surrounded the Field Day site, and I hope everyone who wanted to join us was able. We learned of a mix-up with the scheduling of our original site in Stoddard. A suggestion from Mike McCarty (who passed his Extra Class exam at the Swapfest VE session) led to us getting the American Legion Ball Park just a few miles South of Chaseburg. It was not the same as the ball park that was actually in Chaseburg. That led to some more confusion. It was; however, a site that served our needs the best of any of the sites I have used as a member of RARC. It offered more room to spread out antennas than the Jostad Farm did (without destroying cornfields), and it was a quieter location than Glen Fox Park. It also offered picnic tables, porta-potty, electricity, a kitchen, and running water with two pavilions offering overhead shelter from sun and rain.

We have got some other events coming up...

Steppin' Out in Pink will be on September 14.

We have been invited to support a Gravel Bike Tour on Oct. 5 as well. We would work in cooperation with MVA-RA on that event. It should be a lot of fun.

73

Drew AB9NE



The Beat Goes On ... (CONTINUED)

There was a surprising number of repeat sellers as well as a couple of new entries with things to sell. A number of good items were offered for sale and the kitchen at the Legion Hall was fairly busy. The RARC cleared a little over \$500.00. Not too bad considering how slimly it was attended. As time goes on we find that there must be modifications made in the presentation of this event. It is safe to say that this was an event that was moving in a new direction. Hopefully it will spark a new interest in this event.

Our Field Day event also showed signs of progress in a new direction. Again, it was a situation that required a quick change in venue as the site that was proposed was no longer available for the days of the event. It had been planned to take place in Stoddard at the Legion Ball Park, but due to it being double booked we had to move to another site. Fortunately the Legion Ball Field in near Chaseburg was available, so the event was moved to that site. There was some confusion as to the exact location of the event, but it was all sorted out eventually. This year we were operating as 4A and thanks to the diligence of those in charge, it was a successful Field Day event in spite of the heavy rains that were experienced during the event. Although things got a bit soggy as a result, it didn't stop the operators present from making lots of QSOs. The GOTA Station was especially well used and several DX contacts were made including one to St Petersburg, Russia. It was also nice to note that there were a number of operators that were using CW.

If that wasn't enough, the meal prepared for those in attendance was especially good and singularly well received. The steaks that were grilled were not only huge, they were expertly done and very tasty. There was also several side dishes to complete the meal as well, including various deserts and liquid refreshments. By the end of the day, all present were well fed and continued on to make many more QSOs. There was some concern about the amount of rain that kept coming down, but since this site was on top of a ridge that was well drained we had little to fear from possible flooding. There was a fair amount of localized flooding that took place near there but it didn't affect the general spirits of those who were there. The actual totals of the event have not been finalized, but it appears that it was a successful event. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event work. It is a real delight to see so many operators work so well in spite of the trying conditions. Nicer weather would have been preferred but the need to proceed was required and as a result all went as well as could be expected.

After all, one of the reasons for doing Field Day in a remote location is to test out the skills and abilities of those who participate in this event.

Further, it is gratifying to see how everyone stepped up to make this another successful Field Day event. As has happened in the past, the members of the RARC were able to continue

on. So the Beat goes on for another year. Thanks again to all who helped to make this another successful event. Keep the air wave heated!

73 Carl KC9HDS



Field Day pictures



Volunteer Needed



While the location for Field day was nice, a more centrally located venue would be helpful. If you have ideas about locations for 2025, please contact the board, or better yet, join us! Help us make the club even better! 

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.

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.

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.

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