

# THE KEY

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.

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

**Repeater**  
146.970 PL 131.8

**RARC Net**  
8:00 PM Sunday on  
the 146.970  
Repeater

**Club Meetings:**

**Trustee Meeting**  
3rd Tuesday of the  
month at Perkins  
Restaurant, 9428  
State Road 16,  
Onalaska, WI  
54650 at 5:30 PM,  
all club members  
are welcome.

**Program evening is**  
1st Tuesday of the  
month at 7:00 PM,  
Gunderson Clinic  
conference room 1  
in the lower level.

DVD's, a simple little flat plastic disk, a media storage devise. How much can this little flat disk hold? In computer terms, which is above my head, a disk can hold 4.7 GB of information for a single layer and 8.5 GB on a double layer. I mention this because at the clubs program night on Feb 5, Carl, kc9hds gave the members a tour of the annual archive disk that he puts together every year. Amazing all the information that Carl puts on this disk to keep the club members informed. There are photos of club activities thru the year, manuals, FCC rules info, repeater information and the list goes on and on. You can even find all The Key newsletters for the past year. This archive is invaluable to the club for the specific reason of keeping a history for future club members. I am sure we all thank carl for his valued service to the club.



## CLUB PATCHES AVAILABLE

The Riverland ARC has commissioned Patches-4-Pennies to produce new patches for the club. These will be arriving soon and will be available for purchase. These are 3" diameter stitched on a cloth and plastic backing for stiffness. Some improvements have been made over our last order and should stand out well in a crowd. They can be purchased for \$3.00 each from Rick, kd9gvs, 608-397-5386 or see him at a club meeting. They can also be purchased for \$3.50 each by mail, just send in the form on page 3.



**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.

Address any correspondence or anything that should be included in the newsletter to: Greg Miller at ka9foz@gmail.com.

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 LaCrescent, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.

Below are listed your RARC 2019 Board of Trustees and contact information.

President.....Dan Apts, AB9TS  
Email...ab9ts@yahoo.com

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

Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS  
Email...rckolter@gmail.com

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

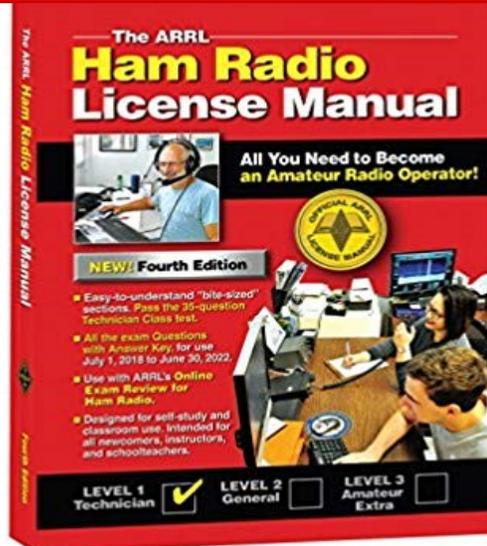
Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS  
Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ  
Email...ke9xq@charter.net

Repeater Trustee...Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ  
Email...eistim68@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC  
Email...ka9foz@gmail.com

*“Don’t forget, March 10th Daylight Savings begins. Set your clock ahead 1 hour.”*



## TEST SESSIONS

Test dates for 2019 for any new licenses or upgrades are:

May 4

September 7

November 9

Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader,

## NOTE

There may be a test session on August 10 at our annual Swapfest, details yet to be worked out. Watch the notice above for this addition.

## CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH

March 3...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, kd9gvs.

March 5...Program Night at Gunderson Lutheran.

March 10...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Kevin, kc9zgd.

March 12...Storm Spotter training.

March 16...St. Patrick's Day Parade. (Club members help along the parade route)

March 17...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, kb9ofk.

March 24...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is David, kd9epn.

March 31...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Greg, k9lec.

April 7...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Carl, kc9hds.



### Program Night for March 5

At last months Program Night, Jeff Springer from Dairyland Power Company gave a talk on home automation, remotely controlling various items throughout the home. This month, March 5, Jeff will be back with a new subject, Electric Cars. The presentation will cover battery and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles that are available or coming soon. It will also cover charging types and charging availability for electric vehicles.



## RARC CLUB PATCH ORDER FORM

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ club patches to the address below. I have enclosed \$3.50 for each patch ordered.

Send patches to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and check to: RARC Box 621 Onalaska, WI. 54650





## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT...DAN APTS, AB9TS

First off I want to thank Greg Miller K9LEC for resuming the duties of newsletter editor. He does such a great job it is hard for anyone else to compare!

We have a wonderful board this year. They have been very generous with volunteering for tasks that need to be done so now we know who will be doing what. They came up with many great program night ideas and ranked them. I am in the process of contacting potential presenters for the top ideas and coming up with a calendar. I'll be sharing that when it gets firmed up. The March program will be a great presentation by Jeff Springer from Dairyland Power on electric cars.

The board is in the process of ordering deployment vests from the ARRL that say "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications" on the back. We will use these when we help out with things like parades and run/walks. Greg K9LEC is having club patches made to be sewn on the vests. We hope to use them for the St. Patrick's Day parade on March 16. There will be extra patches you can purchase for \$3 at the program night meetings.

The date and location for the swapfest has been determined. Mark your calendars for August 10<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am at the Onalaska American Legion. Watch for the flyer for more details. Special thanks to Carl KC9HDS for finding this great location and securing the date for us. The parking lot should work great for tailgaters and the food will be an improvement.

The license classes Bill Wood KE9XQ has been holding are moving along very well. There are 3 students in the technician class and 3 in the general class. The final session with VE's administering the tests will be on March 2. I wish the students well and hope they will become active hams. Let's all try to help them any way we can.

We have had some new hams attend winter field day and the February program meeting. I was glad to see many people talk with them and make them feel welcome. A great way to have things to talk about is to participate in upcoming events. There is a lot in March. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> is the ARRL International DX Contest. I try to get on the air sometime for this every year. This is the best time I know to work foreign countries. They are listening specifically for stations from the US. The RARC program meeting on electric cars is March 5<sup>th</sup>. The Eau Claire ham radio auction is March 9. The Wisconsin QSO party is March 10. Storm Spotter Training is March 12<sup>th</sup>. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is March 16<sup>th</sup>. This short parade is a great way to learn about what we do for this type of event. We have enough hams working it that you can have an experienced ham working with you.

Feel free to contact me with comments and suggestions at [AB9TS@yahoo.com](mailto:AB9TS@yahoo.com). 73 de Dan AB9TS

## HEY CLUB MEMBERS!!

**If you want to help out with the St. Patrick's Day Parade contact Rick Kolter, KD9GVS at 608-397-5386 or [rckolter@gmail.com](mailto:rckolter@gmail.com)**





# **RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**Tuesday Feb 19, 2019 Executive Meeting**

## **MINUTES**

**Call to order:** 5:40 CDT, 2340 UTC

**Members Present :** Dan Abts AB9TS, David Peters KB9EWG, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Drew Neve AB9NE, Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ, Greg Miller K9LEC, Bill Wood KE9XQ

**Approval of Minutes:** January 15, 2018 minutes approved as written

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

## **Committee Reports:**

- Onalaska American Legion reserved for Swapfest 8-10-19
- Greg taking care of Swapfest flyers
- Rick registered the Swapfest on the ARRL website
- Rotary lights check pick-up will be handled by Shawn

## **Old Business:**

- Send articles for the Key to Greg by the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month
- Rick updated Club info on ARRL website, and submitted updated SSC application
- 3 techs and 3 generals studying in Bill's class, going well. March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be special VE session for the class
- Safety vests from ARRL should be arriving soon for everyone that has ordered one. Club patches should be available by week's end. Greg graciously made a donation to the Club to help cover a portion of the cost of the patches. Scott KB3MKD's xyl will sew them on for free. Five extra pocket style vests will be ordered as extras.

## **New Business:**

- Greg took care of registering the Club with Icom America for a promotional event they are sponsoring

**Motion to Adjourn :** 7:19 CDT, 0119 UTC

## Bitter Cold Outside, but Warm Inside...by carl Thurston, kc9hds

The temperature had been colder, so much so that I didn't move outside for days. At -11 plus a wind chill that took it down to -20 it was bitter cold. But there was a VE Testing session set for last Saturday, so I picked up Tom O'Brein WB9BJQ at 0730 and we went to breakfast prior to the test session.

Having braced our selves with a hardy breakfast and the fellowship of Arthur Osborn W0JDC and his wife Lou, we were warmed by their company. After which we continued on down to the Church of Christ A Capella on south 28<sup>th</sup> street La Crosse, by 0900, were Bill Wood KE9XQ, Dan Abts AB9TS, and Scott Cross KB4MKD, were holding a Technician License class for aspiring Hams. Having gotten there some time before us, they had the place nicely warmed up. So when we arrived all was in readiness. They were in one room of the church and we were in the Fellowship hall.

Four individuals had signed up to be tested, but due to the extreme cold, there were only three that came. No matter, we welcomed them and set things up for the test session. The three that were going to test for a Tech Class License were: David Abts, Justin Franz, and Patrick Lee. David and Patrick were local residents, Justin came up from Plattville.

Tom O'Brien WB9BJQ, Scott Cross KB4MKD, David Peters WB9EWG and me Carl Thurston, KC9HDS were the VE testing officials present. Those to be tested were eager and set to go, so we filled out the needed paperwork, collected the testing fees, passed out the tests along with pencils and then we sat back and waited for them to complete the tests.

It wasn't very long and all of them were done with their tests and after checking them over, we determined that all three of those taking the test had passed and so the rest of the paperwork was completed and we were able to congratulate them all for having successfully passed the exam, they were now Technician Class Licensees and by passing the test they were also new members of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club, as by passing they were each given a free membership to our club as a bonus.

To say that they were all delighted, is to put it mildly. With everything completed successfully and congratulations and a hardy welcome to the Amateur Radio community, there was nothing left to be done other than to say Congratulations and try to stay warm.

Tom and I gathered up all of the records, fees, and materials. Having made them all ready for Roger Reader KA9BKK, our local VEC who was unable to be present for this session. He will check everything over and send the results into the FCC so that the new Techs can receive their call signs.

All in all, in spite of the extreme cold outside, it all ended warmly inside, for all concerned. Again, it is nice to invite David, Patrick, and Justin to the exciting hobby and service of Amateur Radio. They are living proof of the continuing growth of Amateur Radio in our area. Tom, Dan, Scott, David, Bill and I all agreed that progress had been made and with the classes that Bill, Dan, and Scott are doing, we can look forward to even more new Hams to come.

Some say that Amateur Radio is declining in our area, but we have proof that it is still thriving and even growing. Let's hope that things continue to get better for Amateur Radio, especially in our area. As time goes on there will be more and more reasons for the continuance of Amateur Radio.



# Amateur radio (illegally) aiding yacht racers

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Golden Globe Race (<https://goldenglobrace.com>), a 30,000 mile, non-stop solo yacht race to celebrate Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's historic 1968/9 world first solo non-stop circumnavigation. There are 18 sailors in the race, which started on July 1, 2018 from Les Sables-D'Olonne, France.

Amateur radio is at the heart of the latest controversy surrounding the race. *Scuttlebutt Sailing News* reported (<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2019/01/21/maintaining-information-barrier/>) on January 21, 2019 (day 205 of the race):

“Sailors have been making use of the Amateur Radio net (ham radio) for decades, and while National telecommunication authorities have often turned a deaf ear to unlicensed operators using made-up call signs while at sea, warnings from a National regulator to Golden Globe Race skippers has created intrigue into an exciting finale for race leaders.

“Modern navigation and routing tools are restricted from use in the 2018-19 contest, limiting GGR skippers to the type of equipment available for the inaugural Sunday Times Golden Globe solo non-stop round the world race in 1968-69. That includes Amateur Radio.

“The skippers have been using this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, which is allowed under the Race Rules. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by National and International regulations which Jean-Luc Van Den Heede and Mark Slats, in first and second in the race, have not been doing. [[Neither Van den Heede or Slats have valid amateur radio licenses...Dan]]

“Said the warning, ‘You use an amateur callsign and are making connections with amateur radio operators. The call sign letters are not registered, and thus illegal. I ask you to stop. If you have a legal amateur callsign then I urge you to present it.’”

As a result of this warning, Slats is considering dropping out of the race, even though the race is nearly complete. *Yachting Monthly* reports (<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/golden-globe-race/golden-globe-race-slats-considers-quitting-comms-row-68574>):

“Mark Slats, who is less than 50 miles from Golden Globe Race leader Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, has announced he is thinking about retiring from the race after being banned from broadcasting on the Ham Radio Net.

“Race organisers said the Dutch skipper does not have the required licence, and has been warned by the Dutch authorities to stop broadcasting, which has left him unable to communicate with his shore team.

“Under the rules of the race, all of the entrants are able to use this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, but, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by national and international regulations.”

It's not only the yachters that are flouting the rules, it's the amateur radio operators who are communicating with them. According to *Yachting Monthly*, OFCOM, the UK regulator issued the following warning:

“Fair warning both to unregistered GGR skippers and to legitimate Ham radio operators communicating with them. In Britain, the Ham Radio net is controlled by OFCOM, which recently revoked more than 500 licences for non-compliance. This includes communicating with unregistered Ham radio operators. The maximum penalty is 6 months in prison, a £5,000 fine and loss of their licence.”

This is a fascinating story, and I wish that I'd found out about this sooner. It would be interesting to listen in on some of these communications. One question I have is why these guys failed to obtain a valid amateur radio license? The Golden Globe Radio website notes, “[The race] will be sailed under the auspices of the Royal Nomuka Yacht Club in the Kingdom of Tonga. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a Ulukalala is Patron of the Race.” They probably could have issued valid amateur radio licenses to all the racers.

If any of you have heard the communications or know any more about the technical details, I'd love to hear from you.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog ([KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides ([KB6NU.Com/study-guides/](http://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/)), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast ([NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com](http://NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com)). When he's not think about operating maritime mobile, you'll find him on 30m, 40m, and 80m.



## Ninth District QSL Bureau Changes Leadership

Dear ARRL Central Division Member,

I am pleased to announce that Erik Anderson, K9EU has agreed to assume the role of Manager for the Ninth District Incoming QSL Bureau. Mr. Anderson of Naperville, Illinois is a long time volunteer with the Bureau as well as a noted and accomplished DX'er and Contester. Please join me in welcoming Erick, K9EU, to this new role.

All of the Ninth District operators do owe Mr. John Meyers, K9QVB, a great debt of gratitude for his two decades of service to the Amateur Community as the Ninth District Bureau Manager. John has been an active card dispatcher for over 45 years and has decided to retire from the management of the 9th Bureau. When you hear John on the air, please do not forget to say, "Thank You !". Although K9QVB is stepping down as Manager of the Bureau, John does plan to continue to remain active as a sorter and a letter dispatcher.

John has been aided over the past two decades by scores of dedicated volunteers but I would be remiss if I did not mention and give a special note of thanks to Norm Meyer, KC9ARR and Bill Smith W9VA for their outstanding efforts with John in the operation of the QSL Bureau.

The Ninth District QSL Bureau is operated by the Northern Illinois DX Association - NIDXA. The staff of volunteers includes twenty-six letter dispatchers and card sorters. This Bureau handles over 45,000 DX QSL cards each month. Please do your part to help the Bureau system work effectively and efficiently by insuring that you have envelopes and postage on file.

You can find more information about the 9th District QSL Bureau with instructions of how to establish an account of envelopes and postage at <http://qsl.nidxa.org> .

Due to this change, effective immediately, all Ninth District Incoming QSL Bureau correspondence should be sent to ;

NIDXA  
PO Box 125  
Naperville, Illinois 60566

Also, if you currently are on file with Bureau, please take this opportunity to insure that your QSL Bureau account is up to date, especially on account of the new increase in USPS postage rates that became effective on the 27th of last month. The recommendation is to send \$12.36 by check to cover 12 envelopes and postage (including stamps for the second ounce) to the new address.

Again, thank you to Mr. John Meyer, K9QVB, for all of his hard work and dedicated service on the behalf of all of us "9's".

73, Kermit W9XA

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ARRL Central Division  
Director: Kermit A Carlson, W9XA  
[w9xa@arrl.org](mailto:w9xa@arrl.org)

