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## What did you do this month?

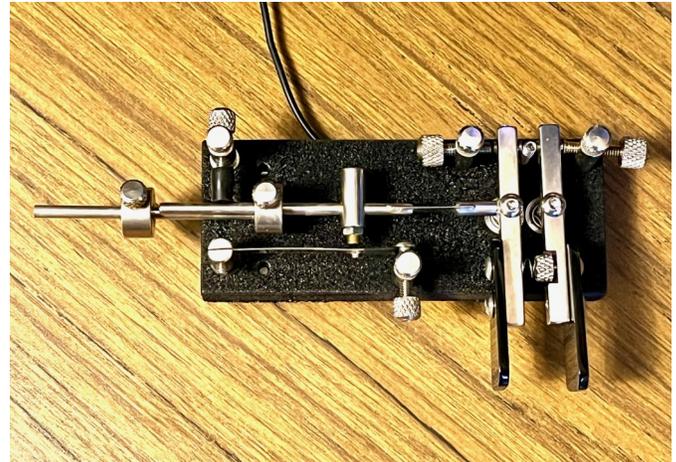
I am building a raspberry pi cyber-deck for qrp digital operation.

Mike KE5RJJ

I spent a day with the Virginia Tech Amateur Radio K4KDJ Association making some contacts. Interesting to hangout with a bunch of electrical engineering nerds

Wayne Oliver KØWLO

I like to work old school CW and am active in the Straight Key Century Club, SKCC. When doing this I use a hand made "bug" made by Tom, KN4YB, in Florida . He's a machinist and makes them from scratch from a raw block of steel.



Dan W9FCC

I created a website on our Google Workspace for photos. I added a button to our rarc.qth.com website under Events and Activities to take you there. There is a slide show for our last swapfest and another for field day.

Dan AB9TS

## UPCOMING Events for March 2026

- RARC Sunday Night 2 Meter Net is held on the 146.970 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control operators for February are:
- **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- **March 3...**Monthly Members meeting, UU La Crosse, 7:00pm.
- **March 14...**St Patricks Day Parade
- **March 15...**Wisconsin QSO party
- **March 17...** Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

2026-03-01	KD9GVS	Rick
2026-03-08	W9LUP	Rob
2026-03-15	KD9WPD	Jon
2026-03-22	KB9OFK	Mark
2026-03-29	KØWLO	Wayne

## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

RARC Members and Friends:

Hello everyone, and welcome to the President's Corner. We are off to a great start for 2026. Not a whole lot going on this month to comment about, but 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 March Program night Which will be March 3rd. Mike KB9HV will be talking about logging software, and I believe Drew AB9NE will have a Shack Share. We are always looking for presenters for the program nights and the Shack Share presentations for the program nights, and we are planning different events for the year.

We hope that the next ham class will be planned and we will continue with the Hams in the Park and other events. I would like to see the club participate in The National Night Out in August.

This year's picnic will be at Rowe Park, and it will take place on Saturday, September 19th. Well, I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming March Meeting and upcoming events.

73 from Your 2026 Club President

David KB9EWG



# Riverland Volunteer Examiner Program

## The Volunteer Examiner Program

When you became an amateur radio operator, 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.

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.

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.

## License Classes

We are putting together classes for people who want to become amateur radio operators or to upgrade their license to a higher class. There are a couple of guys already to join 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). Please put Ham Radio Testing or Ham Radio Classes in the subject line. We can schedule a class and /or a test.



Scott Cross  
KB3MKD

## What Did You Do This Month?

I added KM4ACK's 73 Linux to my shack's computer. I also successfully added the NOT1MM contest logging package (blatant ripoff, but excellent addition) and FLWKEY and FLOG which are lesser known (but very functional) parts of the FLDIGI suite.

Tnx es 73

Drew AB9NE

Ron, KD9OHQ and I attended Hamcation in Orlando this month. We can share more about the trip in a future presentation to the Club.

Rick KD9GVS

I wanted to share a few highlights from my recent trip to Florida. During my vacation, I attended an informative forum on Yaesu C4FM and Wires-X presented by John Kruk, the Yaesu National Sales Manager. Additionally, I spent Friday and Saturday, February 13th and 14th, at Ham-Cation at the Central Florida Fairgrounds.

Ron KD9OHQ



## 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 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 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 Gaunky, KE9BVE, Email berrycityberries@gmail.com

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

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross KB3MKD Email...crossconnects@gmail.com