

**RIVERLAND
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB (RARC)
LA CROSSE, WI**

THE KEY



ISSUE 5 FOR 2024

MAY 2024

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Art Osborn W0JDC

Art Osborn, W0JDC, became a Silent Key April 26. He was 100 years old. A child of the Great Depression, Art was so many things, a First Class Engineer, an amateur radio operator, a builder, a husband (twice), a Dad and a crank. And a softy.

Midwest Broadcasting sent Art to La Crosse as chief engineer to put WXOW TV19 on the air. The company was not particularly prosperous and it was very "frugal" so Art was sent to La Crosse with a used water-cooled RCA transmitter, a couple old color cameras from a Detroit station, second hand gear, hamfest junk and salvage to do the job. He was the right man for the task, building and repair were joys for Art.

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UPCOMING Events for May 2024

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

May 5, 2024	Mark KB9OFK
May 12, 2024	Jon KD9WPD
May 19, 2024	David KD9EPN
May 26, 2024	Rick KD9GVS
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **May 7...**Program Night: UU Fellowship Hall 7:00pm. Elmer time 6:30 pm
- ◆ **May 11...**MS Walk. Contact Rick Kolter for details
- ◆ **May 18...**Hams in the Park
- ◆ **May 21...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

It was with a great deal of sadness that I heard of the recent passing of long-time club member Arthur Osborn. I've been a member of the club for seven or eight years now. When I first came to meetings, Arthur was a fellow who sat at the program meetings with his laptop computer. He didn't say much at the meetings. Most of what I know about Arthur are second-hand stories. There are other people in the club who know of him first-hand. I don't wish to take their stories or misstate something. I'll just say that the times that I have chatted with Arthur, he was always interested in what I had to say and would have something interesting to say in return.

We have a few big events coming up in the next couple of months. Coming up in short order on May 11 will be the MS Walk. The MS Walk is an event that the club has supported for several years. The date was just recently announced and unfortunately conflicted with the plans we had for Hams in the Park. I'd like to push Hams in the Park back to the following weekend and do it May 18. Let's do that at Goose Island so that we can make it a POTA outing for folks interested in that. We can also give our equipment a trial run for Field Day. It'd be good to get some exercise with the trailer. We have also not yet had the opportunity to use the new FTdx10 with the ATAS-120 antenna system. That would be worth giving a try. After we move into June, we have our Swapfest on June 15, then Field Day will be the following weekend, June 22-23.

It'll be worth spending some time at the May meeting to go through what we'll need for these events. I had planned that for June, but the speaker I had lined up for May came up with an unavoidable conflict and asked if he could speak in June in-

stead.. Swapping the meetings doesn't seem like a bad idea since it'll give us time to respond if we identify something in the discussion that will need the time to address. Please make plans to attend the May 7 meeting. There will be valuable discussion regarding some of the club's marquis events. I'd also like to send along the club's gratitude to two very valuable members. Greg Miller has very generously housed the club trailer and much of the club's equipment for many years. Greg has been a very thoughtful contributor of good ideas to take care of the equipment over the years as well. Mike McCarty has generously agreed to house the trailer for us, and it is at his property now.

We have another role that is open and looking for a volunteer to step up and into. The club has a long-standing relationship with Rotary Lights and is in need of a Coordinator to be the liaison between RARC and Rotary Lights. The club has historically decorated a tree at Riverside Park, and helped with clean-up of the park on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We have participated in the Rotary Lights Parade that opens the annual lighting as well. The club gets a stipend from Rotary Lights for our effort in cleaning. The liaison represents RARC at the Rotary Lights Award Banquet to receive the check as well.

73

Drew AB9NE



ART OSBORN W0JDC (CONTINUED)

He needed happiness in the early '70s recovering from his first wife's death. The WXOW project and later meeting Lu helped his attitude though that could be hard to tell from his crusty appearance. But he was a softy and an interesting conversationalist once he knew you.

W0JDC was licensed in 1946 before most Riverland Amateur Radio Club members were born. His major interest in amateur Radio was in building and he came from a time when hams would go to a junkyard and scrounge for parts and then build something new from them. But Art also would operate — in CW—and would bring his mobile unit in his car to Field Day although he preferred having other people pound the key.

Art like doing many things for the Radio club and participated in events when members a quarter of his age wouldn't show up like to help with Rotary Lights. There would be Art plugging away in the cold. At Field Day Art would often bring antennas and equipment that he built to try out for other guys. You always could expect Art to be at every meeting. In later years in the hybrid sessions you'd see his computer online.

Many members became familiar with Art because of the Sunday night net. He was the guy always there to transmit Newsline with his homemade gear. He valued making contributions to the ham community and was proud he did that Sunday nights longer than

any other member of the club, and was, of course, reliable to a fault.

Art was at WXOW for maintenance, repair and restoration. Still, he had to take an on-air shift occasionally, usually in early mornings, due to the place being understaffed. That was not his thing. He disliked timing commercials and making the duct tape, chewing gum, baling wire system work. He'd be a nervous mess making error after error. Then making seemingly endless make-good reports.

Another Art story: channel 19's newsroom was nothing more than a corridor with typewriters and so there was a lot of traffic. One day Art came through and stopped to say something and his appearance just didn't look right. I noticed his shoes, the high top tennies looked different, and indeed they were. Art explained that he would wear the right shoe on the right foot one day and then on the left foot the next day to even the wear. You remember Art came from the depression when people were very careful with their money.

Art Osborn was born in 1923 in Alexandria, MN. He was a veteran of WW2 and the Korean War. He graduated from the University of Minnesota.

Obituary by Bob Seaquist



W9LSE

Volunteer Needed

Riverland Amateur Radio Club is in need of a volunteer to coordinate our efforts with Rotary Lights and liaison with the Rotary Lights leadership.

Our club, for many years, has decorated a tree as part of Rotary Lights, we've helped to clean Riverside Park after Rotary Light's opening night, and we've appeared in the Rotary Lights Parade at times.

Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ, has been our liaison for several years, has served with distinction, but would like to pass it along to somebody else.

The liaison does not have (and should not) do all of the work. There are many of us who look forward to

spending Saturday after Thanksgiving out in the park.

The liaison handles the communications with the Rotary Lights, arranges for the tree decorating (and tear-down) and park cleaning, and attends the award ceremony where we receive a check from Rotary Lights for helping to clean the park. The Rotary Lights folks have the process very well in place, you just need to let those of us in the club know where and when our efforts will be wanted.



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.

President.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.

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