

# THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club WR9ARC



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.

## LOOKING BACK...By Greg Miller

While cleaning out a shelf in my shop I came across an item that I thought would be of interest to our local Hams. Some of you old timers will remember this and the newer Hams probably won't.

Back in the middle 1980s the Riverland Amateur Radio Club voted to join with the Badger State Smoke Signals (BSSS), a Wisconsin Magazine dedicated to Amateur Radio and the promotion of local radio clubs. We had voted to have our minutes to the meetings printed in the BSSS and that each member of the club would receive a subscription to the monthly magazine. This was a relationship that worked out very well for both the club and BSSS.



So finding this edition was very interesting for me for a couple of reasons, one was because I was very involved with making this transition back then and because of the 3D images that they put in it.

**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 Monday 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.

**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 LaCresent, MN. 146.970 pl 131.8.

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

President.....Dan Abts, 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

**LOOKING BACK** Continued from page 1

Inside of the edition they had an envelope with a pair of 3D glasses so that you could view the images. My edition still had the glasses stuck between the pages. What fun it was to think back as I read thru this magazine from the past. It pays to hang on to somethings. I have reprinted other pictures as well as our minutes from that time so get out your 3D glasses and enjoy.





This view is looking south from the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Field Day site, Owen Park in Columbia County. It's a super VHF location, on clear nights, the towers in Madison, 35 miles away, can be easily seen. K9ZZ photo.



Here's Jim Brooker, K9BQZ, operating Packet Radio at the Yellow Thunder ARC Field Day site. Jim is also Treasurer of Badger State Smoke Signals, TRAC, and others. A hard worker, this guy! K9ZZ photo.

3D pictures and minutes of the RARC from the October 1985 issue of the Badger State Smoke Signals.

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<p>On September 4, 1985, at 7:42 p.m., the regular monthly meeting of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club was called to order by President Craig Goldbeck. Minutes of the August meeting were approved as read from the Badger State Smoke Signals. The treasurer's report was approved.</p> <p>RTTY Repeater Report: Duane reported that some changes were made to the repeater so it can handle any speed up to 110 Baud.</p> <p>37/97 Report: The TV station borrowed the power supply from the repeater because of an emergency at the station, this resulted in a weak signal when switched to the battery back up. The power supply will be re-installed as soon as possible.</p> <p>Old Business: The next scheduled exam session is tentatively scheduled for the middle of December. Anyone with a preference as to what night they would like see the exam scheduled, let Rick, KV9U, know as soon as possible.</p> <p>A motion was made that we pay the amount requested for liability insurance to the insurance company by the September 15 due date. The motion was passed and the premium will be paid.</p> <p>New Business: Rick has offered to teach a class for new Amateurs or to upgrade to Technician or General. If there is any interest, please contact Rick or anyone in the club so one can be scheduled.</p> <p>Program scheduled was a Packet Radio demonstration by WA9SOU.</p> <p>Total members present was 25.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Respectfully submitted, Greg A. Miller Sec. Treas. Riverland ARC</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Jim Burcum</td> <td>K9LBB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greg Miller</td> <td>KA9FOZ</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Al Skwertz</td> <td>W9OHN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duane Fruechte</td> <td>W9HWQ</td> </tr> </table>	Jim Burcum	K9LBB	Greg Miller	KA9FOZ	Al Skwertz	W9OHN	Duane Fruechte	W9HWQ	<p>Tom O'Brien Ron Reed Rick Williams Hugh Barker Art Osbourn Craig Goldbeck Van Elston Bruce Bjerstedt John Young Dick Low Jim Brooker Ray Buhr Knut Knutson Bill Pike Dallas Miller L. F. Bentzen Greg Martin John Markos Ken Weigel Gary Webb Jeff Fancher</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>GUESTS PRESENT</u></p> <p>Jerome Growkowsky John Corstvet George Kroner Bob Pluntz</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!-</p> <p>We are seeking interest in starting classes for Novice, Technician or General class licenses. Anyone who would like to attend a class to upgrade or for review, contact Rick at 783-8028 or Greg at 781-4325. If there is enough interest, we will schedule a class at a convenient time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FROM YOUR PRESIDENT</u></p> <p>Is there anyone who has been considering becoming an Assistant Technical Coordinator? The ARRL is now offering free starter kits to ATCs which include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The ARRL Call Directory</li> <li>(2) 1985 Amateur Handbook</li> <li>(3) RFI book</li> <li>(4) CATV Working Materials</li> <li>(5) Field Resources Directory</li> <li>(6) Field Forum newsletters</li> <li>(7) Blue ARRL Diamond lapel pin</li> <li>(8) ATC certificate and other goodies</li> </ol> <p>You don't have to be a technical genius to serve as an ATC, nor are there reams of paperwork. All that is required is a Tech or higher license and be an ARRL member.</p>	<p>WB9BJQ KD9OY KV9U K0EJZ W0JDC N9ETD WA9FIO K9CUT W9KAZ K0JYB N9DBK AA9M W9SFL K9FYZ K9LEC K9EGO WA9BIK KA9LOF N9CDT N9DHQ N9BRA</p> <p>WA9HCZ WA9SOU KA9HOP WD9FKV</p>
Jim Burcum	K9LBB									
Greg Miller	KA9FOZ									
Al Skwertz	W9OHN									
Duane Fruechte	W9HWQ									

## How to get “plugged in” to the amateur radio community...By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This morning, I found this email in my inbox:

Thank you for your website and great content. I passed the Tech and General tests on Saturday, and I will be taking the Extra exam in November. Your “No Nonsense” guides were very helpful.

I do have a question, though. How do I stay current on what’s happening in the ham world? For example the CQ WW SSB contest was this weekend. How do newbies know this kind of thing? How do we find local or regional hamfests and other events?

This is a great question. Like any special interest, it can seem daunting to get plugged in (pun intended) to the community. Here are a few of my suggestions:

**Join the ARRL** (<http://arrl.org/>). The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is really the place to start for information related to amateur radio. *QST*, the ARRL’s monthly magazine, includes news about upcoming contests and ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. It also reviews new amateur radio products and provides a wealth of technical information.

In addition to *QST*, the ARRL publishes many email newsletters that members can subscribe to. For example, *Contest Update* is a biweekly newsletter that not only lists upcoming contests, but also includes tips on operating contests. The *ARES E-Letter* is a monthly public service and emergency communications newsletters. There are also email newsletters for ham radio instructors, those interested in DX, legislative matters, and satellite operation.

**Join your local club.** While the ARRL will help you keep abreast of amateur radio news and events nationally and internationally, if you want to know what going on in amateur radio in your area, you should join your local club. To find clubs near you, go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

**Visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar** (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>). This contest calendar has become my go-to resource for any and all contest information. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors. Its features include an 8-Day calendar, a 12-Month calendar, and separate calendars for state QSO parties, CW contests, and QRP contests. You can also get a weekly e-mail of contests taking place in an 8-day period (Monday through Monday), as well as a list of contests scheduled for the next week and a list of log submission information for recent contests.

**Ham radio blogs.** Blogs are also a good way to keep up with what’s going on in amateur radio. I like to think that I do a good job of covering what’s going on in amateur radio, but, of course, I can’t do it all. That being the case, you might also want read other blogs. Other amateur radio blogs that you might want to check out include:

- The K0NR Radio Site (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>)
- QRP–When you care to send the very least (<https://w2lj.blogspot.com/>)

Everything Ham Radio (<https://www.everythinghamradio.com/>)

There are a bunch of other good ones out there. Find the ones you like and subscribe to them, so that you get a notification when new items are posted.

**Mailing lists.** Mailing lists are kind of old school, but if you have a special interest, chances are that there is a mailing list for it. For example, I own an Elecraft KX-3, so I subscribe to the Elecraft KX User Group mailing list (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/>). Many amateur radio mailing lists are migrating to the Groups.io. To find a list, just click on the "Find or Create a Group" link at the top of the page. I just did a search for "amateur radio" and found 910 different amateur radio mailing lists.

**Podcasts and videocasts.** Podcasts are also another great way to stay up with amateur radio. I'm partial to the ICQPodcast (<http://icqpodcast.com/>) because I am on the panel once a month. The podcast not only includes a discussion of what's new in amateur radio, but also a feature, which digs a little deeper into a particular topic. Other great podcasts are Ham Radio Workbench (<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>), and Linux in the Ham Shack (<https://lhspodcast.info/>). Internet video shows that are worth checking out are Ham Radio 2.0 (<https://www.livefromthehamshack.tv/>), Ham Radio Now (<https://www.hamradionow.tv/home>), and Ham Nation (<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>).

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have an amateur radio information resource that you find particular helpful, please let me know.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep up with ham radio, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.



## ACTIVITIES FOR November 2019

November 3...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Kevin, KC9ZGD.

November 5...Program Night at Gunderson Lutheran. Dave Peters, KB9EWG will give a talk on programming radios.

November 9...License Exams. Register 5 days in advance to Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 1-608-783-0723 or at readers@centurytel.net.

November 10...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, KB9OFK.

November 17...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is David, KD9EPN.

November 18...Trustee Meeting at Perkins Restaurant at 5:30 PM.

November 24...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Carl, KC9HDS.

December 1...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, KKD9GVS.

December 3...Program Night, Election of Trustee Board.

# News from your Executive Board

By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

Our Executive Board has been very busy this year. As it has already been noted, our Executive Board, with the help and support of many of our members, has made great strides in the furtherance of our ability to communicate effectively on the Bands. The improvements to our equipment has been nothing short of amazing. With the installation of solar panels, a charging controller, a power distribution panel, and storage battery, plus a screw driver antenna, our trailer is totally free of the need for external power to operate. The hard work of various members has made the advancement of our ability to move the trailer anywhere and set up using the several stations in it to operate on VHF/UHF/HF at any time in any situation as needed.

It was a great step forward to be able to accomplish this. It took a lot of planning, careful study of possible set ups, and the acquiring of the needed equipment to make this possible. The innovative use of the available technology has enabled this breakthrough in the versatility and efficiency of our Communications Trailer. These were all good improvements over the way that we were operating before our current Executive Board set to work on improving our capabilities.

All of these were positive things and the members of the Executive Board, along with the entire membership of the RARC are to be lauded for their determination to see this process through to a more efficient and useful way of operation.

There is more. Our Executive Board continues to seek out ways to make our club an organization that is a valuable asset to our community through our continued commitment to aiding the National Weather Service in time of need. With the addition of new, younger members in the RARC at large and in the Executive Board, progress continues to be made.

Some of the things to look forward to as a result of the tireless efforts of our Executive Board are:

An expanded calendar of events, especially participation in operating opportunities for our members in more events like WPOTA, Special Events, and Programs featuring Guest Speakers.

A new and more centrally located place for our membership meetings where we can make use of radios during our meetings.

Possible further improvement of our Repeater capability with the potential of Digital as well as Analog operation.

The possibility of changing our club Call Sign to a more easily usable one that is shorter and more recognizable when doing QSOs.

With the upcoming nomination and election of the next Executive Board, it is hoped that innovations such as these will continue in the coming year. In the meantime, the current Executive Board will continue to work for even more improvements to our club's equipment infrastructure, events calendar, and membership benefits. If the current Executive Board is re-elected, it is certain that improvements like those noted above will continue.





# **RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

## **Monday September 16th, 2019 Executive Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

**Call to order:** 5:46 PM, 2246 UTC

**Members Present :** Dan Abts AB9TS, David Peters KB9EWG, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Drew Neve AB9NE, Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ, Bill KE9XQ, Art W0JDC, Greg K9LEC, Ron Severson, Van WA9FIO.

**Approval of Minutes:** August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes approved as written

**Treasurer's Report:** Available upon request from Drew, AB9NE

### **Committee Reports:**

Dan looked into a new repeater controller, \$450 for an appropriate unit. A new Yaesu Fusion repeater is approx.. \$1600. Van WA9FIO provided very good input to the group. He says the existing controller is solid, lock-ups only occur during programming. Repeater is a commercial grade Vertex, 50 watts continuous. The plan is for a future hands-on meeting with Van, while he demonstrates repeater control procedures to the committee.

### **Old Business:**

Name Badges – if more are wanted, contact 5<sup>th</sup> Ave awards directly

Trailer – No further updates. Wheels need attention, Greg will obtain estimate.

Fox Hunt – Dan has assembled one offset attenuator. Kits were distributed to those that wanted to buy one.

### **New Business:**

Filings have been taken care of by Greg for the Club's federal and state non-profit status paperwork.

**Motion to Adjourn :** 7:25 PM , 0025 UTC



# RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Monday October 21st, 2019 Executive Meeting

### MINUTES

**Call to order:** 6:03 PM, 2303 UTC

**Members Present** : Dan Abts AB9TS, David Peters KB9EWG, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Drew Neve AB9NE, Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ

**Approval of Minutes:** September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 minutes approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Available upon request from Drew, AB9NE

### **Committee Reports:**

Repeater committee/control – will try to meet with Van in next couple weeks to go over repeater control using existing equipment.

Yaesu DR-2X repeater promotion – much discussion ensued regarding this opportunity. Will try to put together a presentation to present to the membership for the November or December club program night.

### **Old Business:**

Trailer updates – Greg will take care of wheel refurbishment over this coming winter.  
Fox Hunt – No update.

Name Badges – 2 left to deliver to those that have paid.

ARES/RACES – Kevin has applied for La Crosse Co. EC., several club members planning to attend the meeting Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> in Sparta for the Monroe Co. ARES/RACES group.

AB9TS 444.475 repeater – Carl has a volunteer who will climb tower for antenna inspection whenever we would like it done.

### **New Business:**

Possible new Club meeting site – Drew's church, meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to check out the venue.

Rotary Lights – Shawn attended a recent meeting with this group and can answer any questions. We will plan to participate in Rotary Lights parade on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

Balloon Launch – no update, Bill KE9XQ not in attendance.

Club call sign expires 4-4-20 – Carl will look into changing the club call sign to something more appropriate for Field Day and other contests.

Newsletter Editor – We may need to find another volunteer for this for 2020.

January Holiday Party – Dan will make the reservation at Schmidty's for Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Social hour 6:00, dinner 7:00. Mail out invites by Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Motion to Adjourn** : 7:30 PM, 0030 UT