

RIVERLAND
AMATEUR RADIO
CLUB (RARC)
LA CROSSE, WI



THE KEY

ISSUE 11 FOR 2025

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What did you do this month?

We have a new regular column, written by YOU! Every month I will send out a request to you a few of days before the newsletter is due out. Please send me a sentence or two and maybe a picture or two of what you did that's ham radio related, and I will edit it all into a column. It can be that you worked some new to you DX, building an antenna, some new equipment, worked a park, or anything else that you would like to boast about.

I think we can all enjoy reading about your adventures.

I know I enjoyed putting these together! Thank you all for the great response this month.

Happy hamming and 73!

Scott

KB3MKD

UPCOMING Events for November 2025

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

November 2, 2025	Mark KB9OFK
November 9, 2025	David KD9EPN
November 16, 2025	Wayne K0WLO
November 23, 2025	Rick KD9GVS
November 30, 2025	Jon KD9WPD
- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **November 4...**Monthly meeting at UU La Crosse, 401 West Ave
- ♦ **November 18...** Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings all, well, here is the end of October. Going into November, I can't believe how fast the year is going. Of course, the November meeting is the time to form an Election Committee for the Annual Meeting in December. We also need to form an Audit committee to Audit the 2025 records.

As the weather gets colder, that brings to an end the outdoor activities, I.E, Hams in the Park for this year. We had a great year of activities, and I look forward to what we will have next year.

I recently attended a Disability Pride Festival, which was held at Logan High School, and I had a good time there. I saw a number of examples of Adaptive Sports and Adaptive Arts and Crafts, and other activities aimed at accessibility for all involved. One key point I drew from my experience there was with the aim of accessibility. What about Amateur Radio? Amateur Radio has always been a great equalizer and requires little to no modification for people with disabilities to use and those that do need modification there are already lots of modifications available as I said Amateur Radio is a great Equalizer and I feel that we belong there at the next Disability Pride fest representing Amateur Radio and the Riverland Amateur Radio Club I already brought this up at the last board meeting I feel we need to be there to show how much of an Equalizer Amateur Radio really is.

I want to thank Scott for the great job he has been doing on the Key. I realize what a challenge it is putting together a newsletter every month, especially when you have nobody contributing to the effort, and we lost a great contributor when Carl stepped down with his monthly column

The next club meeting is on Tuesday, November 4th. Mike McCarty, KB9HV, told me he will talk about Winlink. I am looking forward to hearing what Mike has for us. I hope to see everyone at the next club meeting, either in person or on Zoom.

Until then, 73 David Peters KB9EWG, your 2025 Club President



Noise Mitigation

I'd like to start with a little housekeeping plea.

I'd like to encourage any and all members to submit articles or even regular columns for The Key. The newsletter is an important resource and is only as good as what we make it. As I've mentioned in the past, I was a member of another radio club (in the 1980s) and submitted a Novice Corner to give the other members a perspective that they may not have had otherwise. It's good to have different perspectives and interests represented in a newsletter like this; particularly with the diversity of interests that we have in Amateur Radio.

Now for my topic: my focus for this and a few articles coming up will be to look at grounding and bonding; particularly in the interest of reducing noise and interference on a station receiver. I've been looking into how to improve what we've been experiencing at some of our multi-transmitter events. Grounding and bonding is important in three aspects that pertain to our stations:

1. Safety working with AC current
2. Mitigation of receiver noise
3. Protection from lightning

Bonding is important for all three of these concerns. Grounding is crucial for the AC current and lightning strike concerns, but not so much for the receiver noise.

Let me clarify some definitions: bonding is ensuring that components have a reliable electrically connected bond while grounding means a connection to the physical ground through a grounding rod.

There are some other aspects I'll cover in further articles, but right now I'll look at bonding. All equipment used at an operating station should be bonded to a common point. The connections to that point should use wires that are as short as possible and as heavy wire as possible (use what you have; if you've got a length of 14ga wire that'll work, don't worry that it's not 10ga for this bonding.). The grounding for AC and lightning concerns have codes that suggest minimum wire thickness and the quality of the junctions. The

receiver noise concern might simply need an electrical connection.

All equipment at the station means all equipment. The station transceiver should be bonded to a nearby computer; particularly when that computer is keying the transmitter as in digital modes or contest CW. An external accessory such as speech processor, keyer, or antenna impedance matching unit should be bonded as well. Be sure that the wire has a good electrical connection to the chassis of the equipment. That may mean scratching some of the paint near a screw hole if there is no dedicated grounding point. Equipment designed for radio use often has a dedicated grounding point.

To what should that grounding point be connected?

One good option is the use of a length of copper tubing. A copper tube can be mounted to a tabletop or the edge of the table, span the length of where the equipment is used, and accept bonding wires that are held on with sheet metal screws. If you're also seeking grounding, you may want to mount that tube in such a way that it is not directly against the table so that you can get a grounding clamp around the tube that will hold a heavier wire for the ground connection. A common point like a tube will be a provide a better bond than simply running bonding wires between the different pieces of equipment. It also provides flexibility in terms of being able to easily add equipment to your setup. Again, the wire should be kept short without excess meandering about behind the equipment.

Speaking of excess wires meandering about behind the equipment...

Stay tuned. That's called foreshadowing and it's a hallmark of quality writing. There are volumes to cover bonding and grounding and I'm trying to condense, but there's more than one newsletter article. I'll try not to let too many months lapse before my next one.

Drew Neve, AB9NE



What Did You Do This Month?

I recently purchased a little (tr)uSDX QRP radio and have been having a lot of fun with it. Also, on Saturday the 18th, KD9KGQ and I activated Perrot State Park, Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge and the Great River State Trail for Parks on the Air.

Participated in the Simulated Emergency Test. I acted as liaison between the local ARES net on the 146.97 repeater and the HF Badger Emergency Net, passing traffic.

Dan, W9FCC

73, Ken

W9GM



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. Please Include "The Key" in the subject line.

Wanted: Articles for The Key

Looking for items for this space

What Did You Do This Month?

This month I officially joined the La Crosse ARES/RACES group, participated in the statewide ARES/RACES S.E.T. and attended the WI ARES/RACES conference in Wisconsin Rapids

Dave Gaunky

I worked on several antenna installation projects that are ongoing yet, upgraded my HF radio station to a 200 watt output transceiver. Had yard trees trimmed to make for easier wire antenna installations. Continued learning through constant viewing of YouTube Videos about all aspects of Ham Radio.

Ron Severson

KD9OHQ 73

I just updated the Upcoming Events on the RARC website and listened on 2 meters and 70 centimeters while driving.

Dan AB9TS

I recently refurbished an old Antenna Specialists brand ground plane scanning monitor antenna that had been in service for many years. A tree branch eventually caused the vertical section to break off completely, as well as bend one of the ground radials. It's just about ready to put back up.

I also participated in the recent "SET", Simulated Emergency Test, for the local ARES group. I was net control for the 2 hours we participated on October 4th.

73 Rick

KD9GVS

I began my Amateur journey this year (finally) by passing my Technician and General exams and am presently working on my Extra. I purchased some HTs and a Yaesu FT-101-EF (used), and a power supply for the Kenwood TM-V7 which was given to me by a friend and fellow Amateur. I am now researching antennas and towers so I can really get on the air.

73

Greg Bergh

WX9GSB



What Did You Do This Month?

Armoloq makes some really nice protective steel frames for various ham radios. After purchasing a FT-DX10 for my base station, I knew I wanted to make my Yaesu 857D my grab and go portable operation radio. I've been concerned with dropping the radio in transit or otherwise damaging it over the years. So a while back, I invested in an Armoloq for the 857D.

With the robust framework encasing the radio, I feel more comfortable quickly grabbing the microphone and radio and tossing it into the car's passenger seat. I added some rubber feet I purchased at Ace Hardware. The rubber feet allow the radio to sit nicely on my car dashboard (while stationary only) with good view of the LCD screen.

This week I purchased a right angle coax jumper from Armoloq. The coax jumper connects to the back of the radio at a right angle and leads to the front of the radio to a female BNC coax connector.

The setup allows me to use the quick connect / disconnect feature of the BNC connector to get my portable station running in a minimal amount of time.

With the coax connection routed to the front, I avoid the awkward bend of the cable when the radio is placed on the dashboard near the windshield.

Additionally, the Armoloq framework allows the radio to be operated horizontally on a picnic table or vertically from a grab and go satchel pack.

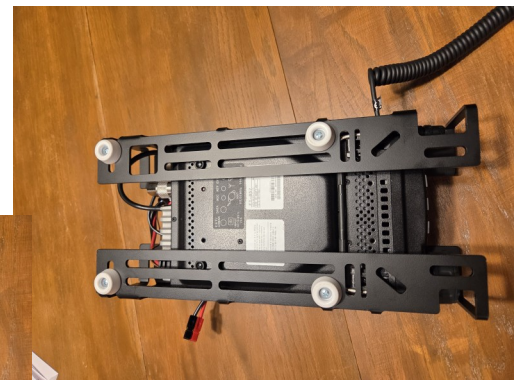
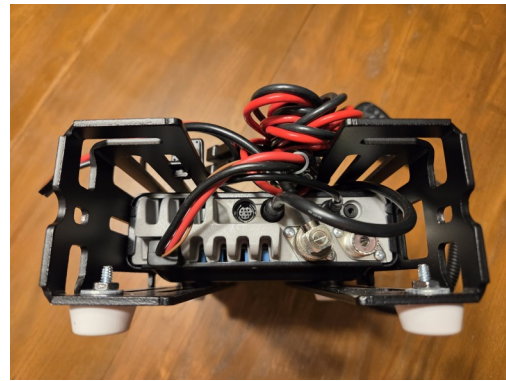
The original purchase of the Armoloq didn't come with the right angle jumper. The initial plan this week was to purchase two jumpers. One for the HF antenna connection one for the VHF / UHF connection. They only had one in stock, so I will order the second one for the VHF / UHF side when it becomes available.

However, the original purchase did come with a cable connection for data and a cable connection for a speaker jack / morse code keyer.

See attached pictures.

Shawn A. Hicks

KD9KGQ



What Did You Do This Month?

This month I participated in the ARES S.E.T exercise. It was my first time doing so, it was fun, and I learned a great deal!

In addition, although not Ham related, I purchased a hands free chest bag and I hope to incorporate it into new Ham adventures.

The bag allows me to carry my phone, wallet, and a can of bear spray when I am out walking my dogs in many of our area nature preserves. The bag will allow me to carry other safety gear as well, and I have been testing it out for the past week to see how it held up before adding more gear to it. So far, I am quite pleased with it for the price, and it is a functional bit of kit I am using daily. I have included the link for the bag if anyone is interested, and I am not associated with the link or product in any way, or for any monetary gain.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0D7CWP9CH?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_fed_asin_title&th=1



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 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. 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 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 La Crescent, 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.....Amos Magnuson, KE9AHQ Email... ke9ahq@gmail.com

Secretary.....Jon Melbo. KD9WPD Email melbo.jon@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Michael McCarty KB9HV Email kb9hv@icloud.com

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

Trustee.....Scott Cross, KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net

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

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net