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## Make a Wish List

It seems that nearly everyone has a wish list this time of year. Some are made known to others who may see that some of those wishes are fulfilled, some are very personal and secret as it might be a bit embarrassing to divulge their contents, some become part of a "Secret Santa" event; known to those within that event, and some are just plain wishful thinking on one's part, never to be seriously pursued.

The origin of wish lists are vague and mysterious. Most likely the adult version of the wish list is an out growth of childhood letters to Santa expressing the wants and desires of the children who wrote them. Those letters are usually simple, direct, and quaint. As we grow older, our wish lists tend to be of a more sophisticated kind; they are often comprised of many

items of an elaborate and often more expensive nature. Wish lists are not limited to one particular season, but one would suspect that the majority of them are to be found during the run up to the Christmas Season. As a result, with luck, at least some of the items on a wish list will find their way to the author of it at that time. Hams are said by some to be much like children in their desires to attain various goals and to amass the equipment they feel that they need to pursue their hobby. This is only human and for many, it is both an innocent and useful side to Amateur Radio. Most of the items that make up the average shack are fairly expensive, at least when new;

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## UPCOMING Events for October 2024

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

October 6, 2024	Greg KA9FOZ
October 13, 2024	Rick KD9GVS
October 20, 2024	Wayne K0WLO
October 27, 2024	Mark KB9OFK
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **October 1** ... Program Night: UU Fellowship Hall 7:00pm. Elmer time 6:30 pm
- ◆ **October 12** ... First day of Technician class. Continues October 19 and 26
- ◆ **October 15**..Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.

therefore it is rather prohibitive for enthusiasts to equip their shack all at once. Since in real time and real budgets, it is necessary to carefully plan out the lay out of the shack, it goes without saying that a wish list of some sort is a necessity. Such lists can be fun as well as practical; for those who do not have the wear with all to fulfill the dreams on a wish list, it can be fulfillment in itself by the mere compiling of such a list. Who wouldn't like to dream about getting a 100 foot antenna tower, a 1500 watt self tuning linear amplifier, or a fully digital all band HF transceiver. Whether in reality these would be practical things for the average Ham or not isn't the issue. Who wouldn't want to have a world class HF station? Who would be able to afford such a set up? Anyone would be glad to at least dream of such a rig. A wish list makes such dreaming possible, even if the reality of it is way beyond the reach most Hams.

With this in mind, who wouldn't want to build a wish list of their very own? There is little or no harm in it.

The results of building such a list can be a possible benefit to the individual's well being in many ways, even if it never progresses beyond the wishful thinking stage.

So the up side of it all is that no matter what else might go wrong in the real world of Amateur Radio, there is one place where even the most harried hapless Ham can find a peaceful place where all will be perfect and nothing will fail. Even if this is only in one's mind, it will make a quiet, calm place to retire to. So why not go ahead and make a Wish List? It couldn't hurt. It might even result in some new stuff for your shack.

73

Carl KC9HDS



## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello

As the Riverland Radio Club's year ebbs and flows, this is kind of a sweet spot where most of the year's operating events are behind us, we still have a few things going on, and preparations are beginning on the following year's events.

We're a couple of weeks past Steppin' Out in Pink. The club members who helped out and represented the club did so with distinction. The event is organized by Gundersen Health System. There was a steady sprinkle through the entire event that picked up a couple of times into a heavier rain. It certainly kept participants from lingering around Riverside Park after their walk, but it did not dampen (pun intended) their enthusiasm. There was a good deal of music and dancing with folks enjoying themselves in spite of the rain. I saw groups of women along the route, I saw groups with men and women, I saw entire families with small children and I saw participants in wheelchairs. Gundersen's event coordinator, Olivia, thanked me for the group's participation and took the extra step of complimenting the members of the radio club, the level of support that we gave, and the manner in which we operated. I was very proud to hear that compliment and want to pass it along to folks who participated and hope that anyone thinking of participating in the future will take advantage of the opportunity. This event is really a special one that we support and I hope we can continue to support it for years to come.

Another thing that gives me pride about my

participation in this hobby is the opportunity to support our communities in times of need. I'm out of town on vacation and just heard about the conditions in Atlanta. That community is suffering with intense rainfall and people having to evacuate. I am confident that the amateur radio community is supporting the relief effort, and I'm sure that the operators who do it feel right at home with their net operations from experience operating nets in community events like we do at Steppin' Out in Pink, St. Patrick's Day, and the MS Walk. Those events are great ways to support our communities, but the lessons we learn apply to more than watching people move along a parade route. We may do things very similarly each time we go out to an event, but there are usually small nuances that we pick up that will improve how we operate better the next time. Those lessons add up and will improve our support when it is really needed.

We have a new Technician licensing class that will begin in a couple of weeks. I'm looking forward to it and hope it will produce a new member or two. I'm confident that it'll produce new licensees.

Anyway...

The deadline is approaching, and I need to get this column submitted. I also need to get myself back on the road and get home in time to get to work on Monday. I'm also looking forward to seeing all of you on Tuesday!

Drew AB9NE





# Weather Station Open House





# Steppin Out in Pink





It is almost election time for the Club. We will be electing a new board at our December meeting. We could use some fresh blood. New ideas for club projects and activities are welcome and new ideas for venues for these activities is also welcome.

Most activities and projects are organized by a few members of the club with little participation from other members. We could use some help.

We have a reservation for the Onalaska American Legion for our annual swapfest, which will be held in June 2025. Flyers will be made available for advertising after the technician class.

Scott

KB3MKD



## BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



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](mailto:kb3mkd@arrl.net). Please Include "The Key" in the subject line.*

*Wanted: Articles for The Key*

*Please submit your Article by the 26th of the month and include "The Key" in the subject line.*

Looking for items for this space

# LICENSING COURSE TO OBTAIN YOUR TECHNICIAN CLASS AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE

The course will be held at 8 AM on three consecutive Saturdays: October 12, 19, and 26, 2024.

Participants will receive for a \$50 contribution:

- a current ARRL License Preparation Manual by Gordon West (\$29.95 value)
- \$15 ARRL Exam Processing Fee
- Lunch on October 12 and 19.
- 2024 Membership with Riverland Amateur Radio Club

RSVP: Drew Neve, Riverland Amateur Radio Club President, [ab9ne@yahoo.com](mailto:ab9ne@yahoo.com).



## CLUB INFORMATION



### Riverland Amateur Radio Club

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- \* 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 2022 Board of Trustees and contact information.**

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

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

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