

RIVERLAND  
AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB (RARC)  
LA CROSSE, WI

# THE KEY



ISSUE 9 FOR 2024

SEPTEMBER 2024

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## Baraboo Circus City SwapFest...

It has become a sort of a ritual to go to the Baraboo Circus City Swapfest. I'm really not sure why I go to this event as I seldom have anything to buy or sell there, but when Roger KA9BKK asks me to go, I usually comply. Oh yes, it is always an interesting experience. Roger and I find plenty of things to discuss going and coming from there. As time goes by and things progress, there are fewer and fewer of the old timers left. Seeing and talking with old friends that one sees so seldomly is a definite plus and one never knows what one might find there that could be useful, even if it isn't a top priority item just now. There has been times in the past when this event seemed like it was dwindling

and about to stop being held, but it always seems to get a new breath of life that keeps it going. I'm not sure how it survives. It may be because it is fairly close to Madison and other larger cities. It may be because of the historic element, it being the home of the Barnum and Bailey Circus Museum. Also it could be the site of the event, as it has strong connections with those interested in old farm machinery that are to be seen there.

*Continued on page 3*

## UPCOMING Events for September 2024

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

September 1, 2024	Greg KA9FOZ
September 8, 2024	Rick KD9GVS
September 15, 2024	Wayne K0WLO
September 22, 2024	Mark KB9OFK
September 29, 2024	Jon KD9WPD
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **September 3** ... Program Night: UU Fellowship Hall 7:00pm. Elmer time 6:30 pm
- ◆ **September 14** ... Steppin out in Pink
- ◆ **September 17**..Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend.
- ◆ **September 21**... Hams in the Park

## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Many thanks go out to the Mc Carty Family for the effort that went into supplying the club with fantastic steaks as well as help for several of us to build tape measure yagi antennas for the two meter band at our picnic in early April. The picnic was a very good chance to relax and spend some time with friends and friends' families when we don't have a radio right there demanding our attention the way we do at many of our other events. The picnic was very enjoyable. If you missed it, you missed a good time. I hope you'll be able to join us at such events in the future, both near and farther out. I also have a nice new two meter yagi. Mikey was looking at how to make attenuators a reality with not-too-difficult kits. It'd be great to be able to equip several of us with the necessary gear for an effective fox-hunt. We've been building towards that for the past couple of years. That could be a fun activity!

I'm writing this column a week before Labor Day. We've had some good discussion with the Board, and there are a few things coming up that will (hopefully) make a difference in how we do things. We'll get some hands-on at the September meeting and get some shelves mounted in the trailer. The hope is that we can reduce some of

the clutter in there and keep it a more usable space.

We also have a licensing class planned for October. It will be held over three Saturdays: the 12 th , the 19 th , and the 26 th . Your help is needed to publicize it. Be sure to let anyone you know who might be interested know about it, but also think about spreading the word. If you know of a community calendar, get it posted, or let me know about it. It is important to get the word out.

Upcoming events:

September 7

10 AM - 4 PM: Open House at Weather Service office

Volunteers needed.

September 14 Steppin' Out in Pink - Riverside Park, La Crosse

September 21 WIPOTA - Coulee Experimental State Forest

October 12, 19, 26 - Tech Licensing Class  
73

Drew AB9NE



The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club hosts it and they constantly have a good draw and there are always coffee and rolls for sale at reasonable prices there. This year, the weather was perfect and the turnout was not real heavy but there were enough in attendance to make it a viable swap fest.

As always, there were several tailgaters there to add variety to the event. There were many interesting items to be had and as I watched, I saw several Hams from our area buying and hauling off items that I'm sure that they are planning to resell later. There is nothing better than a good deal that one sees that they can flip at another event and perhaps make a dollar or two on in the process.

Roger had several banker boxes full of items to sell and as he was unpacking those things, I immediately found that there was something there that in spite of my assertion that I wasn't going to buy anything, I found an item that I must have. It was a coil of bare 12 gauge copper wire about 50 feet in length. The price was very reasonable and I just couldn't resist it, so I bought it. I have no idea what I will use it for, but it was such a good buy that I bought it anyway. My purchase of that wire

must have been a catalysis, as Roger was able to sell most of what he had brought. So that worked out well for him.

In addition to what he sold, he also bought several HT radios that were just too good a buy to pass up. He is sure that he can resell them later. We spoke with many old acquaintances that were there and renewed several friendships. All in all it was a very enjoyable event. I even won a door prize, as usual, it was something that I had little use for, so I passed it on to our club for a door prize for a future swap fest.

As the event wound down and all of the door prizes were given out, we decided to pack up and head for home. On our way home, we stopped for lunch in Mauston at the Denny's there and enjoyed a nice club sandwich, fries and a coke. The day ended with our return to Onalaska around 1330. A long, but enjoyable day. I'm glad that I went along. I'm sure that everyone who did make it there had a good time.

73

Carl KC9HDS



Picture from Yellow Thunder Radio club 2018

## VHF/UHF Happenings

If you are a subscriber to the La Crosse Hams email list, you may have seen a recent posting regarding a new repeater in our area located near Hwy. 16 and County "B". It is the 444.300 machine that is also connected to the FM38 system of linked repeaters. The new repeater was installed on August 16th, and I, along with several other Riverland members, were fortunate enough to be on site to observe the installation. This was a new experience for me. I have been involved in repeater replacements before, but not to this extent. The installers were from the Milwaukee area and arrived in town about noon that day. I was able to meet them for lunch upon arrival which allowed us to get to know each other a little bit before the work began. The team of 4 began work about 1:00PM by setting out their climbing gear, ropes and pulleys, and a powered winch which would wind the rope to carry a new antenna and any other supplies to the top of the approximate 100' tower. Obviously this team had done tower work before, as it took very little time for the first climber to reach the top. A second climber joined him a few minutes later. The first order of business was to remove an existing unused Wi-Fi antenna. This was an unusual antenna to me, about a 5' tall conical shaped fiberglass unit with the antenna elements inside, that was lowered to the ground without incident.

The new antenna was a commercial grade, vertically stacked dipole array that was the next item to go up the tower to be installed. New heliax type feedline was installed to the new antenna. This all made for a very robust installation that should give years of trouble free service.

The repeater itself was also a commercial grade unit from Tait Communications, a New Zealand based company. It was brought to the site all ready to go and took very little time to get on the air. It was installed in the existing control building on it's own rack.

If you have not yet tried this new repeater, please take some time and check it out. It has good coverage to the west, north, and east of it's Hwy. 16 location.

73 for now....

Rick, KD9GVS







## 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.

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