RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (RARC) LA CROSSE, WI

THE KEY

ISSUE 9 FOR 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026

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What Did You Do This Month?

I set a goal for myself of operating at each Lock and Dam from Hastings down to Dubuque, before the snow flies. I've hit 6, 7 & 8. I'm off to a good start.

Dave KE9BVE

This month I have begun to put together the components to build a couple of 1W LoRA Repeaters which will operate on 915 MHz. The repeaters will be able to either be used on Meshtastic or MeshCore networks. A number of us in the club are making plans to set up either Meshtastic or MeshCore networks in the Lacrosse area. Meshtastic and MeshCore networks could be a nice alternative for maintaining emergency communications in the scenario where cellular communications should ever become unavailable.

DJ w0kon

I gpt out and activated governor Dodge State park on Saturday, so I am getting some radio time in!

Jake N9DMT

For those members who are Linux users or like to experiment with it, I wanted to mention that I have created a BASH script program that aids in determining which COM port a USB connected radio

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UPCOMING Events for September 2026

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

September 06	Rick	KD9GVS
September 13	Rob	W9LUP
September 20	David	KD9EPN
September 27	Jon	KD9WPD

Saturday morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.

September 1...Monthly meeting at UU La Crosse, 401 West Ave

September 12...Stepping Out in Pink

September 15...Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas.All members are welcome to attend.

September 19...Club picnic Rowe Park, Onalaska

September 19..WIPOTA

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Riverland Amateur Radio Club
Members and Friends,
A few notes from the Vice President:

Our President, David Peters (KB9EWG), has been in the hospital recently, so I'm going to fill in with this column as an effort to lighten his load as he recovers.

We are headed into September, so our activities are starting to wind down for the year, but we have got plenty to keep us busy through the month. Some of our events are unfortunately scheduled concurrently. By the time you read this, we will have recently completed a second annual appearance at the Great River Folk Festival. It was a fun event last year. I worked some great DX adding Indonesia and South Africa to my log. A highlight of our September activities comes on Saturday the 12 th with Steppin' Out in Pink. It's hard to imagine a better cause to support than breast cancer research, and it is a super-fun event full of enthusiastic people who are very appreciative of our efforts.

The weekend after that is September 19. Here's where some events conflict…

It is the day of our club picnic. We'll be at Rowe Park in Onalaska. Please bring a dish to pass and join us.

September 19 is also the date of the WIPOTA contest. There may be some folks figuring out how to do both the picnic and the contest. I'm afraid I have a wedding to attend that evening, so I'll be limited to the picnic.

That day is also the Ride the Ridges event that's run by the Winona club. Some of our members have supported that event for many years and really enjoy it.

That brings us to the end of the flurry of activities in September.

I'd like to thank everybody who took part in the club's activities throughout the year. It's been a fun year and a very rewarding one.

Drew
AB9NE

What did you do this month (continued)

(or any piece of USB gear really) is plugged into. It works by running the script, then either plugging or unplugging a USB device.
The script will then identify what changed for you. Anyone who is interested can let me know any of the usual ways and I will be happy to share. I originally made it for me & I've been using it for quite some time successfully, but it likely would work for others too. I've used it on a Debian system (LinuxMint) and an Arch system (CachyOS). If it
breaks on something else I would be interested about that too.

Jon KD9WPD

I purchased a RF sensing transmit/receive switch, so I can use my SDR with my older transceiver.

John KD9TOR

I must admit that I have done little amateur radio work. I did make contact with a special event station in the Uk. Celebrating the victory over Japan in WWII. Other than that I was occupied with eBay sales and with several family crises. It has been a very busy summer for many things, but alas my radio has been silent.

Carl Kc9hds

What I did this summer

I must confess up front, that I didn't do a lot with radio this Summer. It is just that so many other more pressing things have demanded my immediate attention. I will not elaborate on those things. When Scott Cross our Newsletter Editor, put out a call for some submissions, no matter how small, for this month's “The Key” issue, I felt compelled to respond as I have done so many times in the past. When I told him that I hadn't done much with radio this summer, that I had been occupied with family issues and with eBay sales, he encouraged me to write about my eBay activity. So here goes... Having been involved with eBay over the years, mostly as a buyer, I had accumulated many things mostly electronic in nature.

In the late 1970s I became involved with eBay and Pay Pal, they became my main source for many things that I found interesting. As a result my collection of these things grew and grew, until they filled my garage, my basement, and even a storage unit.

Don't get me wrong, I am NOT a hoarder, I merely collect items that I find interesting and inexpensive. Many of the things in my collection have little real value but I found them interesting at the time, so I bought and bought and bought. My wife tolerated my pursuits of gathering these things until she drew the tine and said that she wanted to be able to put her car in our garage, so a lot of my collection had to go. I agreed.

Even that though I found many of these things interesting when I got them, I had very little use for many of them now. At first I tried to sell on eBay, but I found that I neither had the time nor the needed skills to be successful at that. So I found a number of individuals willing to sell for me for a cut of the proceeds. The results was mixed. Some of these sellers were good but had other responsibilities so they were not able to help me much, some lacked the needed knowledge to present these items well when offering them for sale. Some were more interested in ripping me off, so I dumped them. Over time, I finally found someone who knew how to present these things to the best advantage, so we formed an agreement and I have been able to shift into high gear with the eBay sales.

Most of my collection is made up of computers and their peripheral components. Many of these items are what might be called “vintage” as they date back to the early days of home computers, as a result the interest in these items has been varied over the years. I now find myself in possession of many computer things that are desirable to collectors. I got a lot of these things for little cost and are now very desirable, so we are making some very good money selling them off. I

am finally realizing the true value of some of them.

One item, was an Atari Falcon 030, it has been described by my seller as a “Unicorn” ie: a very rare and extremely desirable and valuable piece. It has turned out to be the “Crown Jewel” of my collection. To be fair, this computer has a lot going for it. It is one of the last computers made by Atari, it is complete in its original box still shrink wrapped and never used. It can be described as museum quality and as a result it was offered on eBay with a starting bid of $5500! I wasn't sure if this would float, but someone immediately placed a bid of that much on it. Not much happened until the closing minutes of the auction. There had been over 100 people watching this item, so I was hopeful that big things could happen, and they did! It eventually sold for over $7000! To say that I was shocked and surprised is to say the least. I finally felt vindicated in my collecting these things over the years. I still have many Vintage pieces for sale, but none as rare as this one.

73 Carl KC9HDS.

I put together a presentation for new hams (or anyone wanting a refresher!) called "Getting Started with Repeaters: Getting on the Air and Basic Etiquette" that I'll be doing on September 10th at 6:30PM Central time on Zoom. Anyone interested can add it to their calendar using this link: https://calendar.app.google/iNvSzwTePBdpmigb6 or they can join directly on Zoom here: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82294028998?pwd=UzuynNrREDimDpt3lkodSWYWXH9D2E.1

Jake N9DMT

RARC Operating Events

Hi, Everybody,

I wanted to take this opportunity to catch you up on the latest addition to Hams in the Park the past couple of months; that is the comparison series. We started with portable rigs in July and in August we took a look at antennas. I collected a fair amount of data from PSK Reporter at Hams in the Park at Red Cloud Park and plan to have a presentation at the September 1 meeting.

The dive into antenna data is an interesting one and we'll probably look at more antenna variations in the future.

PSK Reporter is a great tool to gain usable data. Thanks to Mike McCarty for pointing out some filters on PSK Reporter that will help even further.

There seemed to be a fair amount of interest at Hams in the Park. That was good to see. Thank you to everyone who turned out.

Please let me know if you have suggestions for things you'd like to see compared.

Tnx es 73

Drew Neve, AB9NE

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

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

I am in the market for tuner up to 800 watts output. Automatic or manual depending on age and condition.

Thanks for your help and 73.

Ronald H. Severson, KD9OHQ

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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 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 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 2025 Board of Trustees and contact information.
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