

THE KEY

Official Journal of The Riverland Amateur Radio Club



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.



**Riverland
Amateur Radio
Club**
P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, WI.
54636

Repeater
146.970 PL 131.8

RARC Net
8:00 PM Sunday
night on the
146.970 Repeater

Club Meetings
Trustee Meeting
3rd Monday of the
month at King
Street Kitchen at
5:00 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.

A LITTLE RIVER FUN...by Kevin Holcomb, kc9zgd

Spish splash I was taking a boat trip! Our last club meeting of July 3rd, we had the opportunity to go out on Dan Abts (AB9TS) pontoon for a ride on the river. I made it to his house close to 6pm with a cooler of water and pop left over from field day. Dan and I made our way down the hill to the water and loaded everything up to be on our way to the 7th street boat landing to pick up club members for the ride.

We made our way out on the river as I was egging Dan on to hit any and every wave he could catch. Pontoons do well with going through waves so I was trying to get Dan to up his game. We had a nice ride to the landing where we were first met by strong current, in which I had to catch the dock and assist Dan in our adventure. Once we were docked, club members came aboard the boat with a total of 8 including Dan and I. We went out on a nice peaceful ride under the Cass street bridge, and some even made contact on our repeater.

Once we made it just North of the Clinton Street bridge, we turned around to head back before dark. Again it was a peaceful trip back to the 7th street landing. BUT, then comes my favorite part of the whole trip, a real adventure for all on board. Just a little before the 7th street landing, a cabin cruiser comes by producing some very significant waves. Again, pontoons usually handle well in waves, but it depends on the waves, direction, speed, etc. What happened next? You guessed it, I told Dan to hit the waves! Hit the waves he did! The first wave got all of us up front wet, the second wave, the bow, the very front of the boat went under water! All I could here was, "DIVE, DIVE, DIVE!" Of course that was all in my head. I looked over and the wave went right over the front gate filling the deck of the boat, knocking over a table with coolers and drinks, and of course some of us sitting in water! So I hurried over and opened the gate to let the water out and we slowly bounced back up out of the water.

"That was AWESOME!" is all I could say to Dan. I was smiles for about a week. I am not sure how the other club members felt about it, but every one seemed fine. Dan was just washing off the deck of his boat. On a side note, no electronics were harmed in the adventure of Dan's boat other then his navigation lights no longer work. I can't wait until next year, any one else want to go for a boat ride?

More boat ride pic-
tures on page 5 & 8



I receive several magazines a month at my QTH as I am sure most of you do. These are on various interests that I have. In thinking about these recently I asked what do they all have in common that this publication does not. It's "Letters to the Editor". It's not that I don't print them, it's that I don't receive any. Maybe that would be a good addition to the Key, what do you think? It could spur on some lively discussions or not. Just an idea so if you want, send in any comments to ka9foz@gmail.com or k9lec@arrl.net.

Just 1 week to the Riverland Amateur Radio Club Swapfest and based on recent e-mail activity it looks to be another good one with more sellers headed our way. Remember weather not an issue as we hold this in a comfortable air conditioned facility. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Please note that all boating pictures in this months Key are the handy work of Dave Peters, kb9ewg. Thanks Dave.

73

k9lec



August Schedule

July 29...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Rick, kc9gvs.

August 4...RARC Swapfest, Omni Center, Onalaska, WI.

August 5...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Kevin, kc9zgd.

August 7...Program night is emergency night! Bring your to go kit and anything else you may have to contribute to emergency communications. There will be a power point presentation, (with some humor) so don't miss a great and educational night. .

August 12...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Dave, kd9epn.

August 19...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Mark, kb9ofk.

August 20...Trustee Meeting at King Street Kitchen, club members are welcome.

August 26...Sunday Night net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 PM. Net control is Dave, kd9epn.

September 4...Program night, .

Riverland Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 621
Onalaska, WI 54650

President.....Kevin Holcomb, KC9ZGD
 Vice-President.....Dan Abts, AB9TS
 Secretary.....Rick Kolter, KD9GVS
 Treasurer.....Greg Miller, K9LEC
 Trustee.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS
 Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK
 Trustee.....Bill Wood, KE9XQ
 Newsletter Editor.....Greg Miller, K9LEC

The Key is published monthly and e-mailed to members and friends of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club. Address any correspondence to: Greg Miller at k9lec@arrl.net.

Visit our website at rarc.qth.com



Testing for new Ham's or upgrades for 2017 will be on the following dates:

August 4 (RARC Swapfest)
 November 10

Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurtytel.net.

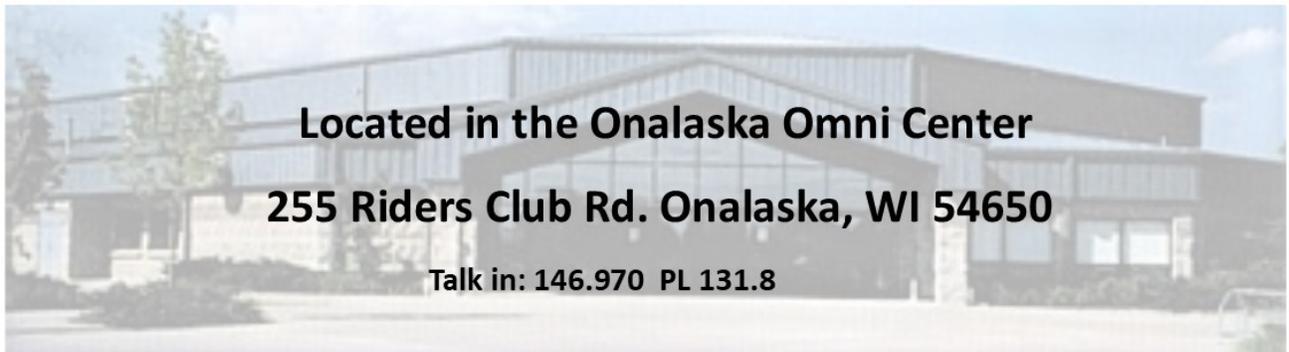


RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SWAP FEST

AUGUST 4, 2018

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM



Located in the Onalaska Omni Center
 255 Riders Club Rd. Onalaska, WI 54650

Talk in: 146.970 PL 131.8

- Door Prizes
- Vendors
- Flea Market
- Buy—Sell—Trade
- Tailgating
- Food Vendor
- Handicap Accessible
- ARRL Award Card Checks:
- DXCC, VUCC, WAC, WAS, 160m



VE Test Session at 9:00 AM

Get your free copy of *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles*

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

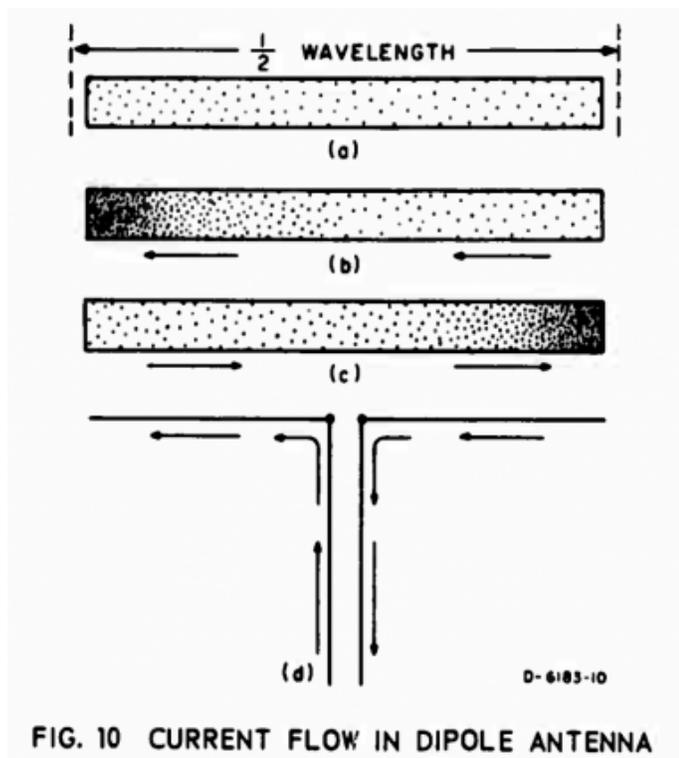
A link to *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) was posted to reddit recently, and I liked this document so much that I thought I would share it with you. It was originally written for the military, but is now available for free from the Defense Technical Information Center.

The preface to this document reads:

“Under project Agile, Stanford Research Institute has supplied several teams to assist operating personnel in improving the performance of field radio networks. In this work, it has been observed that U.S. military and civilian antenna manuals often contain misleading information regarding the operation of field antennas and tend to be overly complex. Consequently, this guide has been prepared to assist in training personnel concerned with the construction of simple HF antennas in the field.”

I must say that *A Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* does this very well. It not only explains how dipole antennas work, it also does a very good job of describing the basics of radio waves and propagation. And it does this without getting overly technical.

For example, below is Figure 10. It’s used to describe current flow in a dipole antenna.



Continued on page 5

The *Field Guide* reads:

“Electric current in a conductor consists of the flow of small particles called electrons. Figure 10 (a) represents a dipole with electrons in it. When the transmitter is turned off, the electrons distribute themselves evenly throughout the dipole, as shown. All electrons repel each other and try to get as far from each other as possible; that is how they achieve the uniform distribution shown in Figure 10(a). When the transmitter is turned on, the electrons flow back and forth from end to end as shown in Figures 10(b) and 10(c). First the electrons flow to the left and crowded at one end as shown in Figure 10(b). Second, since the electrons repel each other, they push off to the right and get crowded together at the other end, as in Figure 10(c).”

It then uses this description to talk about voltage and current distribution along a dipole antenna:

“The difference between voltage (volts) and current (amperes) in a dipole is also illustrated by Figs. 10(b) and 10(c). You can see that the maximum flow of current is going to be in the middle of the dipole. An observer at the center of the dipole would see the electrons rush past, first one way and then the other. The center is the maximum current point. Very little current flows near the end of the dipole; in fact, at the extreme ends there is no current at all for there is no place for it to go. However, at the ends of the dipole, there is a great change of voltage; when the electrons are densely packed, this represents a negative voltage, and when there is a scarcity of electrons, it represents a positive voltage. Thus you can see that the voltage at each end swings alternately positive and negative. An end of the dipole is a maximum voltage point.”

A *Field Guide to Simple HF Dipoles* is packed with all kinds of goodies like this. Download it (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf>) right now.

When he's not building dipoles or teaching ham radio classes, Dan blogs about amateur radio, writes exam study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides), and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about your experiences with simple HF dipoles at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



Boat Ride Pictures



The Captain



The Crew

(this ship is going down)

Do you ever wonder? ...by Carl Thurston, kc9hds

With the swap meet about to happen or maybe it already has happened by the time this is in "The Key." It gives one time to reflect on what has happened and what might happen with Amateur Radio, SkyWarn, emergency preparedness, things that we might train for, Hams and their issues and ideas. This is a lot to contemplate, but it should be done.

With the continual advance of the art of radio, what do you suppose is next? Will there be more activity on the bands? Will the bands ever be open longer and on a more regular basis? Are there any new modes out there that can and should be explored? These are just a few things that come to mind as one lets one's mind wander and wonder. Oh yes, there are so many things to contemplate about Amateur Radio in general and all things Ham as well, but where do we go from here?

What can and should be done to further the Service? At times this Service :i.e. ARRL Special Service, is often under utilized and seldom understood by those involved with it or the public that those services are designed to assist our communities in times of need. Everyone needs to have a direction to go with any activity, and the mission of Amateur Radio is so wide spread that it is hard at times to focus on things that might be important to all concerned. Yes, SkyWarn is the premier service that is of use to the National Weather Service in particular and to the public at large, but do we take this Service seriously enough, or are we complacent and only pay minimal attention to those needs?

In spite of the list of things that could be of Service to the community, we seem to be fairly lax about the follow through at times. Just how important is our involvement in public service? Do we really fulfill a need, or are we just going along with the flow because it is the easy thing to do? Do we put forth an honest effort to improve the Service, or are we happy with the status quo?

Some Hams seem to be more motivated about these things than others. Whether this is good or bad is yet to be determined as we really need to establish a priority list of the things that we as a club could or should be actively involved with.

Is it better to have a united, all in effort by the whole club, or is it more doable for a small group of our members to concentrate on such an activity. In the past we have marshaled parades, half marathons, biking events and the annual Rotary Lights display at Riverside Park, as well as the occasional call out to observe and report storm activity for the NWS, but is that enough? What can be done to establish a reasonable means of pursuing such goals? How can we all get more involved in Service activities? Is this something that we need to discuss at our monthly meetings? Or are we so complacent that no one is willing to do more than the minimum to retain our Special Services designation? Perhaps if we were plagued with a regular dose of emergency situations such as hurricanes, earthquakes, or wild fires, we might be more motivated to prepare for such eventualities. Perhaps, but maybe not. It does make one wonder about these things, but is wondering about these things all that we will do, or are we going to be committed enough to step forward and say "We need to do this because it needs to be done."

It is not just Amateur Radio Operators that are complacent, many of the services that are supposed to be there to serve and protect us have little use for our service. Why is that? How can we make a case for our Service if no one takes us seriously? This has been an exercise in futility by and large. Many questions have been asked here, but no answers are readily available here, just the hope that this piece might be a seed that can grow results. Results needed for both the Ham community and the general community as well. Think about it, and wonder what is next.

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Monday July 16, 2018 Executive Meeting

MINUTES

Call to order: 1704 hrs.

Members Present : Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD, Roger Reader KA9BKK, Dan Abts AB9TS, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Rick Kolter KD9GVS, Bill Wood KE9XQ

Approval of Minutes: May meeting minutes approved without comment

Treasurer's Report: Greg not able to be present, no report at this time.

Committee Reports:

SWAP FEST: Roger has sent out numerous flyers to other clubs, Thanks Roger ! Greg has picked up a few door prizes, but more are needed. Discussion resulted in the decision to pick up \$150 (100\$ ea and 2 for 25\$ ea) gift cards from HRO. Roger will take care of this. Bill has (2) LaCrosse Technologies thermometers he will donate as door prizes, Thanks Bill ! It was also decided to sell 50/50 tickets at the swap fest. Roger will likely handle this as well. The entry ticket will serve as the ticket for the raffle prizes.

FIELD DAY: Dan reports that we had a very successful day, lots of contacts and a number of visitors to our Field Day site from area Amateurs and the general public. Dan is taking care of submitting results to the ARRL. Thanks to all the club members that helped to organize and set up. A 40\$ donation was received by Kevin at Field Day, it was decided to add that to the Club's general fund. The 6-160 meter dipole antenna that Carl ordered worked well at Field Day, after some experimenting with the installation.

Kevin gave a report of the Club outing on the "SS AB9TS" on July 3rd. Many thanks to Dan for taking us out for an evening ride on the river! Dave, KB9EWG, has placed photos of the event on the Club's Facebook page.

New Business:

The Club has a request from the widow of a SK in the Sparta area to look over the equipment she has in her possession, and assist in disposing of this equipment. Roger will meet with her tomorrow to take a look, and find out what her wishes are.

Keith Butler has offered to donate or otherwise allow the Club use of various items that are in storage at the County Building in West Salem. Kevin will contact him again, to get a better idea of his intentions.

Motion to Adjourn : 1905 hrs.



