

# 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.

## DX ENGINEERING

**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.



If you were not at the November Program Night you missed a very interesting Skype presentation on DX Engineering by Bob Naumann. Bob is the Sales Manager for DX Engineering and a very active Amateur Radio Operator known as W50V. A licensed Ham since 1973 he is well known in the world-wide contesting and DXing communities. By Skype Bob was able to give us a tour of the DX store and a history of there early beginnings thru the parent company, Summit Racing. Bob concluded the evening with a question and answer session. It was very interesting and we thank Bob for his fine presentation.

## DECEMBER PROGRAM NIGHT

Traditionally our December meeting has been the election of officers for the upcoming year. We will continue that per our constitution with the exception that 7 trustees will be elected. Those 7 will hold a meeting to elect the officers among themselves. We ask that all members attend this meeting to help pick these 7 trustees to keep the club moving forward in the years to come.



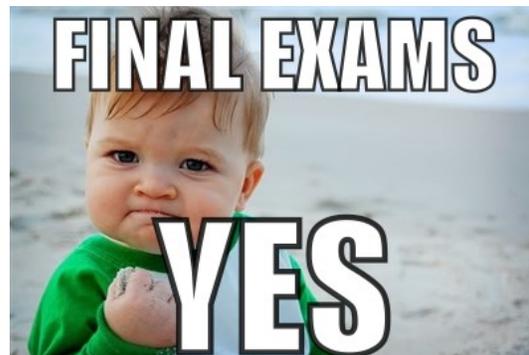


Amazing how the past year has come and gone. Just a year ago we were looking at the prospect of the club not having a newsletter anymore because of Bob Seaquist backing out after many years of doing a great job of handling it. I made the decision to pick it up and run with it even though I knew nothing about editing a newsletter and keeping up with Bob's level of expertise on this would be beyond my skill level. Bob did such a great job of this for so many years that it would be hard to keep it going at that level. However, I have found that it is challenging and, believe it or not "FUN". Because of this I have decided to continue to keep the newsletter going (if the club will have me) into 2018. I have some ideas for improvements to it which will consist of bringing into the fold more of the club members thru out the year. I have been an Amateur Radio operator since 1979 and a member of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club since before its name change from the Onalaska Amateur Radio Club back in the early 1980's. This club means a lot to me and will always be a part of me. I can only hope that there are other members that feel the same as I do. Until the day arrives that I become a silent key I will be a member of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club and do what I can to improve it. 73's

**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 2017 has come to an end. Keep an eye on the club newsletter going into 2018 for testing dates. And as always register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurtytel.net.



**Like Riverland Amateur Radio Club on Facebook and share your radio experiences. Learn about other hams and what they are doing, it is a great place to keep the fun going with your local ham community.**

**Join in the fun**

# The Sale at Dick Kleppe's (KOMN) SK Cabin...

by Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

While rag chewing on the Thursday night net, it was brought up that there was to be a sale of Ham related items at Dick Kleppe's cabin near Black River Falls on the following Saturday. Bill KE9XQ and Rick KD9GVS said that they were interested in going, and since I too had an interest in this sale, I offered to drive up there and I invited Bill and Rick to come along with me. As you probably know, Black River Falls is a bit of a drive through some rather nice scenery, so I looked forward to a pleasant trip. Since the sale was scheduled to start at 0900, we agreed to meet at my QTH at 0730. At that time we headed out for the cabin. It was a very pleasant day for this time of year with only a hint of a mist as we traversed the hills and valleys between Onalaska and the cabin. Since none of us knew exactly where the cabin was located, we relied on "Google Maps" on my iPhone to guide us there. Unlike the previous time that we used that guide we made the trip easily and without any problems.

Upon arrival at the cabin, about 0815, situated in the woods North West of Black River Falls, we found that there were a number of people already there and parking was a bit difficult as the space around the cabin and garage located there were nearly all taken, but I managed to get my Explorer squeezed in close to the garage. A sign posted on the garage stated that the sale would begin promptly at 0900 and not a minute before. There was a rather large pile of radio related items that were marked as "Free" so it was not surprising that there were a lot of Hams digging through that stack of boxes as we got out of the car. I purposely emptied the things that I normally carry in the back of my Explorer as I knew that Bill would fill it with all manner of large items, especially if they were a bargain and free definitely qualified for that. As predicted, Bill way-ed into the crowd and came away with an arm load of stuff which he quickly loaded in my car. Returning to the freebies, he again and again came away with more gems as Rick and I watched. Truth to be told, Rick and I also found a few things in those boxes that we procured and stowed in the car.

As the sign said, the doors of the garage opened at exactly 0900 and the rush was on! People crowded into that 4 car garage as though it was Aladdin's cave. It wasn't more than a minute before I found 2 ammo boxes filled with old Railroad Telegraphic Equipment that I simply had to have. There was no price on them so I inquired as to what they wanted for them and the man in charge said "Make me an offer!" We haggled briefly and as we settled on a price quickly, I bought them virtually sight unseen as there were a number of other Hams looking to make an offer on them as well. It wasn't until much later that I found that I had purchased more than a dozen pieces of Railroad Telegraphic equipment of rather ancient origin, including KOBs (Keys on a base with a sounder), single keys, single sounders and some repeater devices that would amplify a weak signal so that it could be sent a greater distance.

Meanwhile Rick found a buy on some Ham Sticks, Bill found an Automatic Antenna Tuner, and I stood by as they warmed to the sale. The atmosphere was a bit like feeding time at the zoo, as the pitch of the buying and selling escalated to a level of intensity that defies description. This frenzy continued on for some time until most of the choice items were gone. Then everyone turned once more to the "Free" items and all was done well before 1000. As we packed up the last few items and said our good byes to the Hams that we met there, and we once again climbed aboard my Explorer and headed back home.

The homeward trip was exhilarating, as we all felt that we had made good purchases of useful things and as we traveled back to Onalaska, each of us expressed his feeling that the things that we got were well worth the trip. And so we said good bye to the Kleppe Sale and went back home somewhat exhausted from the experience.

# Ether Waves

Greetings Earthlings. Having 40 things to say, and only room for a few, there is going to be some rambling, and a couple unrelated items thrown in for the fun of it.

I've been a Ham now for a number of years, and the 'thrill of it' has never lost it's intrigue-ness.

Think of this for a moment or two.

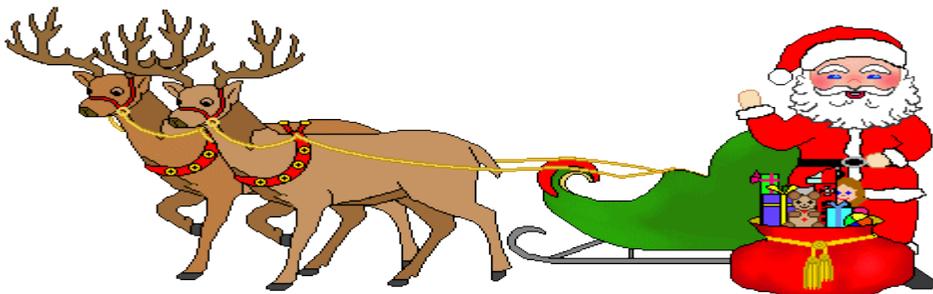
Hold a wire about 18-19 inches long in your hand. Think of what is happening to that wire. It is being bombarded by hundreds of RF signals. AM, FM, SSB, CW, those digital modes many are thrilled by today, and all this in that little wire. Now the signals are SUPER weak, so weak you cannot tell without some form of translating them to visual or audio formats that we can hear or measure. Now take another wire and hold it in the other hand. Same thing is happening there, but on this wire superimpose a signal of your choice. That wire, if the signal is of high enough frequency, will radiate from the wire in your left hand to the wire in the right hand. How can I prove this to be you might ask. Well, let's make the wire quite a bit longer, in order to overcome the inertia and some of the resistance in it, because most of these signals are vibrating in more then one direction, we need to put a diode in it, to help change from AC to DC, (alternating to direct current) that is step two.

Step three is to put an object in this pulsating DC path that will assist us in deciphering those little signals. This is a reproducer, it takes the signals on the wire, and slows everything down to an audio rate. The most simple receiver is a crystal set, and many of those signals cannot be understood from the crystal set's abilities. AM and FM mostly and now you've proven that there are many many signals on that piece of wire. To make the signal stronger, put the antenna up higher, longer and ground the other end, so those original signals have an easier path to follow. That's what's happening to that 18 inch wire, but the signals are so weak we cannot detect them.

Hopefully in the next few articles we will discuss this and other things a little more in detail.

Now on to another thought. My folks taught me to only believe half of what I see, one quarter of what I read, and NONE of what I hear. Is that a good philosophy? Just look at the news papers and you'll prove some of that. Ask a police man who has taken multiple reports from people that have 'witnessed' a crime or accident and that will show the validity of another part of this reasoning. I've taken this type of thinking to heart, and have to confess, I still believe in either, that we can travel faster then the speed of light, and the ameba will not transform itself into a snail and such. You HAVE to think for yourself, do not believe anything I or 'big brother' might say, study it out for yourself and except or reject almost at will. While I do not like total 'anarchy', I do think you need to think for yourself. JUST HOW MANY advancements in science and this physical world of ours would not have been made had it not been for men and women who thought 'out side of the box'...

Thanks for your patience and 73 fer now Bill KE9XQ



# RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday Nov 20 , 2017 Executive Meeting

## MINUTES

**Call to order:** 5:03 PM

**Members Present** : Kevin Holcomb KC9ZGD, Greg Miller K9LEC, Roger Reader KA9BKK, Dan Abts AB9TS, Carl Thurston KC9HDS, Bill Wood KE9XQ, Rick Kolter KD9GVS

**Approval of Minutes:** Oct minutes approved without comment.

**Treasurer's Report:** Monthly report available upon request from Greg, K9LEC.

Greg will submit a report at Dec. meeting for auditing of the club's finances. The President will appoint 2 members to audit.

## **Committee Reports:**

Dan has tree decorated for Rotary Lites. We are still needed this Saturday in the park for duties.

We have enough volunteers to fulfill the 18 hrs. Will not be participating in the parade this year.

## **Old Business:**

Greg still working on scanning club logo, PDF vs JPEG ?

Christmas Party invites and Membership renewals will go out by Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> per Roger.

## **New Business:**

Skywarn Appreciation Day coming up Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Club will be participating. Roger and Tom, WB9BJQ, will be bringing antennas to set up, and Rick will bring his Kenwood TS-690.

Winter Field Day was discussed, but no firm plans made.

Several options were discussed regarding future Executive leadership of the Club. More infrequent executive meetings are one option. Setting up an on-line account for the Executive officers to "meet" is another. Bottom line seems to be some changes are in the offing. We will have elections of Executive Board members by balloting process at the December Annual Meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn** : 7:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

11-21-17

Rick Kolter, KD9GVS, Secretary

*Mark  
your  
Calendar*

December 2...Skywarn Appreciation Day.. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the National Weather Office.

December 5...Program Night at the Gundersen Clinic Conference Room

December 19...Trustee Meeting at King Street Kitchen

January 2, 2018...Christmas Dinner at Schmitty's Restaurant

January 16, 2018...Trustee Meeting at King Street Kitchen

January 27-28, 2018...Winter Field Day

# ROTARY LIGHTS 2017



Photo by Sandy Miller

Dan Apts, ab9ts did another great job on the Riverland Amateur Radio Club Christmas Tree this year. Thank You Dan for setting this up for all to see. And look at that well lit up yagi at the top. A masterpiece of Carl Thurston, kc9hds.



Photo by Rick Kolter

After a hearty breakfast members of the Riverland Amateur Radio Club headed for the Riverside Park to help with the Rotary Lights. Riverland ARC has helped with this event for many years and this crew kept our involvement going. I think they were a little over dressed for the weather this year.



Photo by Rick Kolter