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.

"That Smoke is Close To The Smoke Alarm"

As the solder smoke ascended to the ceiling a fear of setting off the smoke alarm in the conference room became a real possibility. Fanning the air and backing off on the solder helped. So it went with the June Program Night as four members assembled the various items. Kevin, KC9ZGD assembled a 6-80m 1/2 wave HF antenna , Rick KD9GVS and Jonathan Ringdahl, KD9HTW assembled a dual band J-pole. Dan, AB9TS arranged for the kits that they assembled. They had fun and took home something useful that they can use. The evening was not without its usual social gathering among all of the members present, there was talk of Field Day and other events to come.

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.

NO JULY PROGRAM NIGHT

Because of Independence Day falling on the Program Night we will not have a Program Night the month of July. It would be a good time to start preparing yourself for the August 5th Swap Fest. The Swap Fest date is coming fast so gather up your excess radio and electronics gear and set up your own table and make some money and fun.

STATIC FROM THE EDITOR Greg Miller

I never was much into contesting. Realizing that we just went thru Field Day, Amateur Radios all out, 24 hour, contact as many as you can event. I just never could get into this type of radio marathon. I have attended and helped with many of these and I do see the fun that can be had by being that committed to what it takes. But there is another side to this event that I have participated in and enjoyed, the social side. The comradery of setting up and making sure the radios and antennas all work as best as possible. Then the visiting with friends, members and occasional visitor. I have made a few contacts in the past but most of my radio fun comes when I am in my shack having a QSO and learning about the person on the other end. I guess what I am saying is never be afraid of attending these types of events because there is always something for everyone to have fun with, even me.

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 5 (Swapfest)
September 9
November 11

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

July 2017

4th...Independence Day

17th....Executive Committee Meeting

AUGUST PROGRAM NIGHT

Something special for the August program night. It will be held on Thursday August 3 at 5:30 PM. Kevin, KC9ZGD will be giving us a tour of the radio station on HWY 35 in Onalaska, WI. This should be a very interesting tour so if you can make it I am sure you will not be disappointed. Any questions on this contact Kevin at 608-797-2975. Address is 1407 2nd Ave. North.

ARRL FIELD DAY

2017

As the wind was blowing hard and the temperature was dropping the preparation for Field Day 2017 continued. At top the trailer was set into position and set up with the various radios. Below we see the clubs vertical antenna is set up in the field and ready to go. At left is Dan, AB9TS, Tom, WB9BJQ, Roger, KA9BKK, Dave, WB9EWG, and Bill, KE9XQ discussing the proper mounting for another antenna.

CQ FIELD DAY
CQ FIELD DAY

THIS IS
WR9ARC

Not such good planning after all…

There were many things on my agenda that were doomed from the start. Having decided not to bring an HF rig along due to its weight and that of its needed associated equipment, I had decided instead to rely on my iPhone and echolink. But because of the 15 hour difference I had a very short window of time to try to do QSOs. Oh yes, I did bring along a dual band HT, but that proved to be as ineffective here as it was at home. There are plenty of repeaters, but they are as dead here as at home. Another thought was to rent and HF station while I was here, but that turned out to be impractical as the nearest rental place was about 800 KM away. Since I was relying on the goodness of my Son-in-Law, that just didn't seem right to ask him to cart me all of the way to Brisbane and back twice to get one. So, having much to do before the wedding, during the ceremony, and afterwards with the various parties, dinners, and even breakfasts that I hosted, I found that the demands on my time went out of sight. Oh well, suffice it to say that a good time was had by all. I did get a lot of pictures and made a lot of face to face contacts. That was good. We had planned to do a bit of traveling, but everything was so far away, we would have spent a week in a bus to get there and back. So we did what could be done. We spent a lot of time with our Daughter and our new Son-in-law and his family, watched a lot of footy, both at the stadium and on TV. Ate a lot of meals, drank a lot of beverages and did what sight seeing we could around Townsville itself. Townsville is really a gem.

There are many old beautifully restored hotels, Government Houses, Customs Houses, Libraries, and Museums to explore and marvel at, and we did what we could in that line. These things would have been enough if it weren't for those pesky Gremlins. I soon found myself debilitated to the point were I had to be wheeled around in a wheel chair. This was the case when we went to the local Aquarian called “Reef HQ.” The live exhibits displayed there were well done and extremely educational. In one large tank there were gropers, cod, tuna sharks, and a plethora of schools of many different marine fish. We visited the sea turtle hospital where they treat sea turtles who have swallowed plastic bags and jugs. This is especially bad as out of 1000 eggs that the sea turtle lays in a season only one turtle will survive to adulthood. Between their natural predators such as sharks, killer whales, and even crabs their numbers have declined drastically over time. Added to their natural predators man must be added too, although it is now illegal to hunt sea turtles they are still preyed upon by some.

The displays of living coral in some of the tanks was breath taking in their vibrant colors and endless shapes and sizes. There were also smaller tanks with barimondi, catfish salmon, angel fish, and even a baby salt water crocodile. My YXL pushed my sorry butt around, there and got her back out of joint in the process.

When we left there my YXL wanted a gelato so we went down on the Strand near the harbor to a stand were they served gelato. Now I'n not generally one for sweets of any kind, but I must admit that a nice frosty gelato on a hot day really hits the spot. That soothed things a bit so we decided to visit ANZAC Park, located across the street next to the harbor, with its memorial to the Australian and New Zealand solders who were killed at Gallipoli in World War I. That massacre was key to the Australian dislike of most Englishmen. They don't forget and they definitely don't forgive the loss of so many ANZAC troops in that I'll fated landing attempt. But here is where things got bad. Obviously, the Gremlins were on patrol there too. Being very on comfortable, I was forced to beat a retreat to our hotel where I did a lay down to relax my muscles. Lated, after a rest and the administration of some suitable medications, we were able to rejoin Andrea, Chris, and Chris's parents for a few beverages and a nice dinner at a Chinese Restaurant. So the day ended well after all. But that night I was again visiter by the Gremlins and got little sleep. Andrea set up an appointment for me with an osteopath the next day.

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday June 19, 2017 Executive Meeting

MINUTES

Call to order: 5:12 PM

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

Approval of Minutes: May minutes approved without comment

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

Committee Reports:

Swapfest – check mail box on a regular basis for incoming swap registrations. Greg and Rick will pick up various door prize items. It was decided to allocate approximately $300 for the grand prize. Roger will look into what we can get in the way of an antenna analyzer or possibly an HF radio.

Field Day – Kevin will bring small trailer to field day site. Greg will deliver the larger trailer. Bill will look into ordering steaks. Porta Potty has been reserved. Scott Cross KB3MKD will be bringing his camper. Newspaper reporter is scheduled to visit Field Day site.

Old Business:

Still need to send a donation to the Martinmaki family in honor of Ron.

Ad Concepts had an issue with their business, so have not received proofs of shirts and jackets, but they are diligently working on it.

Revised Constitution/Standing Rules was presented in finished form, and was signed by all officers.

TNT program put on hold, due to request from County/Keith Butler. The county actually owns the trailer, and would pay for any approved upgrades.

Program Night updates : No July program night due to Holiday
August 3rd will be tour of LaCrosse Radio Group studios and equipment
Sept. or Nov. Carl KC9HDS presentation on his trip to Australia

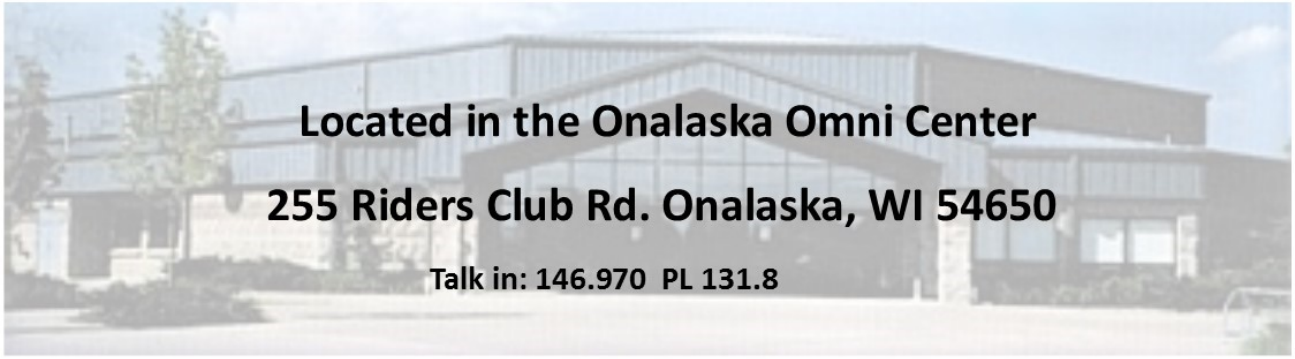
Motion to Adjourn : 6:45 PM

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SWAP FEST

AUGUST 5, 2017

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

VE Test Session at 9:00 AM

Advanced Table Reserve And Entrance Form

Entrance Fee _____ x $5.00 = _____

Table Reserve _____ x $10.00 = _____ [Does not include Entrance Fee]

Limited electrical hook-up available on a 1st come 1st serve. Indicate here if you are requesting electrical hook-up ☐

Advanced form will be held at the entrance table for you. No pre-fest mailings.

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Mail form and fee to:

RARC

Box 621

Onalaska, WI 54650

Further info call Greg Miller at 608-792-7841 or e-mail k9lec@arrl.net