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## Semper Gumby

What does Semper Gumby mean? How does it apply to our club? Will we be resilient enough? These are the questions that we need to answer as we strive to live up to the "Ham's Prayer." There are many of our members who haven't had the opportunity to experience what it means to be a "Ham." At least not long enough to see what can and does happen in our club events. There are some of our members who have been a Ham for a long time, others not so much, but it doesn't really matter. What does matter is that we are a family of Hams (Amateur Radio Licensed Operators.) I know, we are a diverse group. Some would say that we are all as independent as hogs on ice. That we are all individuals and not inclined to work in a group very much. That may be, but in order to keep our club together and to participate in our scheduled events, we do need to be able to work together. This means that we all need to step up and take an active role in what needs to be done at our club events. None of the required work is either "rocket science" nor is it heavy work like "breaking rocks," but we do need to have a level of participation that will ensure that our scheduled events are successful.

Some of our older members have grown tired of carrying the ball so much of the time, this is why we need our newer members help by getting more involved. I know that there are a lot of our newer members who feel that they aren't up to the task, but let me assure them that when they do step up to help out, they will not be alone. There will be other members who will help them through any task.

All that is needed is for everyone involved to remain open and flexible to new ways of doing things. In the past, we have always been able to make things work and I for one am confident that we will continue to do so.

Field Day is a very good time for new members to get more involved. There will be many Hams there that will be willing to point the way and encourage everyone to get on the air as much as possible. Our Board has set things up in advance, to make sure that everyone feels included in our Field Day event.

Great pains have been taken to see that all goes well. None of the required tasks are very difficult or strenuous. The main thing is for everyone to have a good time. We don't stress the competitive aspect of this or any of our events. Our events are designed to be a fun learning opportunity for all. I'm sure that you will have a good time at Field Day.





## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Greetings to all Club Members,

Well we've made it to July already and our annual Field Day Event is in the books. I want to thank everyone who participated in Field Day this year. It was nice to be able to go back out to the Jostad Farm once again and take advantage of the open space that location offers. A lot of work goes into the setup and tear down of the event, but we were blessed to have members show up and pitch in where needed to make this a successful event. The windy weather up on the hill did provide some challenges in keeping antennas and canopies upright, but it didn't prevent us from making a lot of contacts.

Rick Kolter and Roger Reader got there few seconds of fame, by making it in Channel 8's news piece on Field Day. In the piece Roger was hard at work making contacts and Rick gave some background information about Field Day and our club's involvement in it. In addition to Channel 8 paying us a visit we also got a visit from Les Norin who is the Assistant Onalaska Fire Chief and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Leader. Les was very interested in learning about what we do at Field Day and how that ties in with his role as a Fireman and CERT Leader.

Saturday evening's socializing was capped off with a supper that included steaks cooked over a Weber grill. Everyone in attendance seemed to get their fill. While some hams headed home for the evening, others stayed to continue to make contacts in the late hours and camp overnight. All in all, I think we had a really good event and look forward to having an even better one next year.

July will not be as busy for the club as June was, but we will be having a cruise aboard the La Crosse Queen on Wednesday July 6 th at 5:30 PM in lieu of a normal club meeting. Members were asked to purchase their own tickets on line on June 8 th . There is no guarantee tickets are still available, but if you haven't gotten your tickets yet and want to attend you can try going to their web address at <http://www.lacrossequeen.com/> to purchase tickets.

In addition I want to wish everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July holiday with your family and friends.

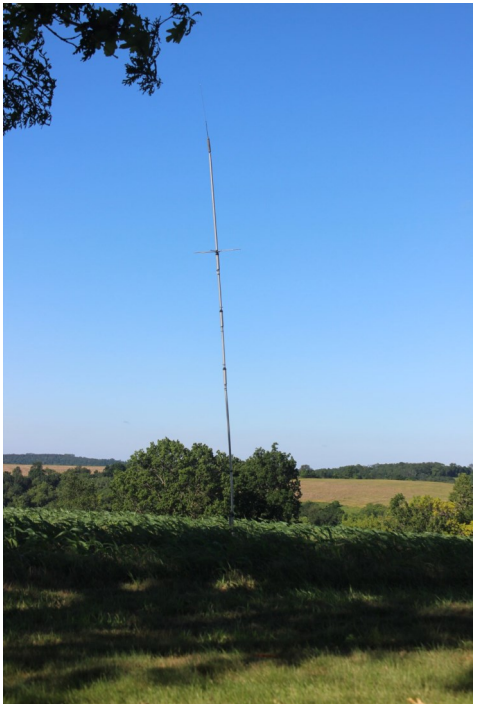
Until we meet in person or chat on the radio, I bid you 73.

Shawn, KD9KGQ





## A Few Field Day Photos





## Green Bank Observatory

In early March I had the opportunity to visit the Green Bank Observatory in West Virginia. Heading to Ft. Bragg NC to visit my son it seemed a good idea to make a side trip to West Virginia to visit a friend of 50 years. Tim is his name and he has worked for the National Forest Service his whole career which put him in the middle of what I would consider no man's land. Sparsely populated and miles from any cell service. When I left his place it was 30 miles before my GPS on Google maps would even work.

My friend Tim is not far from the Green Bank Observatory and has a son-in-law that is an Astronomer at the observatory so it made the visit even more interesting. This is the 13,000 square mile area that your Amateur Radio test question about the quiet zone was about. Just 4 days since the science center reopened from covid the crowd was small, just 12 people so we all could interact with the guide better. Many questions were asked of her.

Following the short visit to the science center we went into a small auditorium for a short lecture and a movie on the large telescope. I was surprised at all of the radio telescopes that were there and the different sizes. All of them listening to the radio waves generated from space. As we boarded the bus to go to the 100 m (328 ft.) dish we had to put our keys for our cars in a lead box to prevent interference. The large one is a 328ft paraboloid and stands 485 feet tall. The collecting area is 2.34 acres (102,000 sq. ft.). The size of this dish was amazing as a complete baseball field would fit at one end of it and its longer than a football field.



At the top is a room that houses the computers. Getting to the room requires an elevator ride to the level of the dish, then about a 200 foot cat walk to another elevator to take you to the room at 485 ft. That cat walk is about 200 foot high and steel grating that you can see thru was enough to stop me from going up. Not that they would let me anyway. And here is my big surprise, my friend tells me he took the walk to the top. He has more guts than I do because I don't know if I could make the first level.

There is so much interesting data about this observatory that I would suggest you go to [www.greenbankobservatory.org](http://www.greenbankobservatory.org) for some good reading.

Greg K9LEC





## Irish Road Bowling



Shawn Hicks KD9KGQ and Drew Neve AB9NE participated in the Irish Road Bowling event. David Peters KB9EWG was on hand for radio communications and pictures.

## Semper Gumby (continued)

We are also looking forward to a Pizza Cruise on the La Crosse Queen. This will be another good time to get to know one another. Its great to communicate via radio, but it is nice to have face to face QSOs as well.

Our annual SwapFest is also coming up. It is a good time to find some of those items that you might need to make you shack more usable. You never know what you will find at our SwapFest. It is always a bit of a challenge because you never know what you might find there. It is a good opportunity to buy, sell, or trade some of those items that you may need or wish it pass on. There might even be some thing there that you didn't know that you needed until you found it there. It is also a great time to meet new friends and renew acquaintances with old friends that you haven't seen in a while. All that any of these events take to be successful is for you to come and pitch in.

Just remember, flexibility is the key to success at any of our club events. So Semper Gumby to you as you join us at our events. Even if you don't feel much like being a Ham, at least try to be bacon.

73 de Carl kc9hds





## UPCOMING Events for April 2022

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

July 3, 2022	Mark kb9ofk
July 10, 2022	Rick kd9gvs
July 17, 2022	Wayne k0wlo
July 24, 2022	Shawn kd9kgq
July 31, 2022	Mark kb9ofk

- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **July 6...**La Crosse Queen pizza cruise
- ♦ **July 18...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Arterial Bar and Grill. All members are welcome to attend. Notice new time and place.

## BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



*Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to [kb3mkd@arrl.net](mailto:kb3mkd@arrl.net)*



I went to an antique radio swapmeet recently (not Dayton) and came home with an NC 183. This is a 65 lb behemoth that was designed when "built like a battleship" (grey and heavy) was a sign of quality. Now I'm looking for a Heathkit DX35 or 40 to go with it. Do any of you have one squirreled away some where?

73, Niel - W0VLZ  
Rochester, MN

[w0vlz@sagienetwork.com](mailto:w0vlz@sagienetwork.com)





## CLUB INFORMATION



**Riverland Amateur Radio Club**

**PO Box 621**

**Onalaska, WI 54650**

- \* 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
- \* 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 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 Crescent, 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 Monday of the month at Arterial Bar and Grill 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. Note that the La Crosse Queen pizza cruise is in lieu of our normally monthly meeting.
- \* 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.....Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ Email...eistim68@gmail.com

Vice-President.....David Peters, KB9EWG Email...kb9ewg@gmail.com

Secretary.....Carl Thurston, KC9HDS Email...kc9hds@gmail.com

Treasurer.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.com

Trustee.....Scott Cross, KB3MKD Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net

Trustee.....Rick Kolter KD9GVS Email rckolter@gmail.com

Repeater Trustee.....Roger Reader, KA9BKK Email...readers@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor.....Scott Cross Email...kb3mkd@arrl.net