

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.

Unexpected But Well Deserved

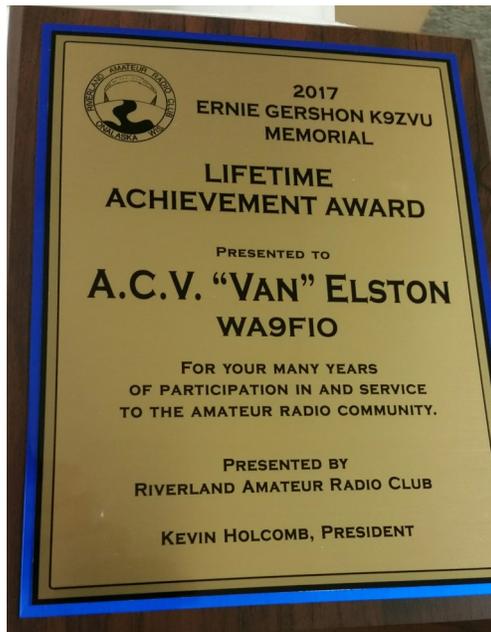
**Riverland
Amateur Radio
Club**
P.O. Box 621
Onalaska, WI.
54636

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.



At the RARC Program night a very special award was given to Van Elston, WA9FIO. The Ernie Gershon Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award. Thru the years it has been obvious that Van has volunteered a lot of himself and time to many club activities and to the ham community to help make things better. His knowledge and efforts are what has kept the 146.970 Repeater on the air all these years. Many Thanks to Van and congratulations.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM NIGHT

The November Program night will be held at the Gunderson Clinic in the lower level on Nov. 7. This should be an interesting program as we are planning a Skype communication with DX Engineering. This should be about a 45 minute presentation from them on their company and how they got there start and changes thru the years. Come and enjoy.



I relinquish my comments this month to my sister Jeanette Eggers, KB9AFF.

Inspiration Needed!

Years ago.... Many, many years ago (like maybe 30?) my brother encouraged me to get my Ham license. He had been a Ham for some time already, and my father (K9LEC) was an avid Ham his entire adult life. He used Morse Code like most of us use the computer keyboard today. It was mesmerizing to watch him tap out a message in an instant to a fellow Hammer!

So, Greg (my brother who now goes by the call sign of K9LEC), wanted me to follow the family tradition and become a Ham and surprise my father. So, I studied and I have to admit that Morse Code was a bit tricky for me to learn. I passed the test but I think they kind of took pity on me regarding the code part of it. I have to admit that it was a thrill to show Dad my license – his reaction was priceless.

Dad immediately set me up with a radio, antennae, and whatever I needed to get started. I was busy though – college took up much of my time, and then we moved (and the Ham station never got set up at the new place), and I started a business... just one thing after another and now here I sit wondering if I should upgrade (license is still labeled "Novice" or do they call it "Primary" now) and become active or not?

I am retired now! But as we all know that does not mean I am sitting around with all kinds of time on my hands. It just means I sort of do what I want to do and I manage to get myself involved in all sorts of activities. So, I started a list of pros and cons...

Pro:

- Meet new people
- Enjoy a new hobby (I do love my hobbies!)
- Talk to people from around the world
- Learn new things – keep up on technology

Cons:

- Take up even more of my time
- I have no room for a Ham Shack!
- Spend money I do not have (remember, I'm retired!)
- Maybe I'm too old to learn new things.

So, there you go – no tie breaker, 4 pros/4 cons. Dilemma, dilemma! I like to read "The Key" each month (Greg emails it to me) and this is what's piqued my interest (plus attending the Swap Fest at the Omni Center the last two years in a row). Maybe someone out there could share their thoughts and sway me one way or the other. Maybe I should just watch football instead... or maybe not.

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Monday Oct 16 , 2017 Executive Meeting

MINUTES

Call to order: 5:33 PM

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

Approval of Minutes: Sept minutes approved without comment

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

Committee Reports:

Rotary Lites: Dan reports we will be participating in the Rotary Lites parade this year as planned,

And will keep us updated on schedule. Will also be available to help out down at Riverside

Park. Dan and Rick have volunteered to ready the club trailer for pulling in the parade.

Old Business:

New Business:

Skype presentation from DX engineering will be put on the schedule for Nov. 7th program nite.

Kling Designs proposal to recreate Club logo tabled for now. Greg will try his publishing software

for re-creating the original club logo design he has in his possession.

Club Membership form and Christmas party invites were approved, and will be distributed to Roger

For mailing out by early part of December.

Motion to Adjourn : 6:40 PM

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@arrrl.net.

Final test session for 2017 will be November 11.

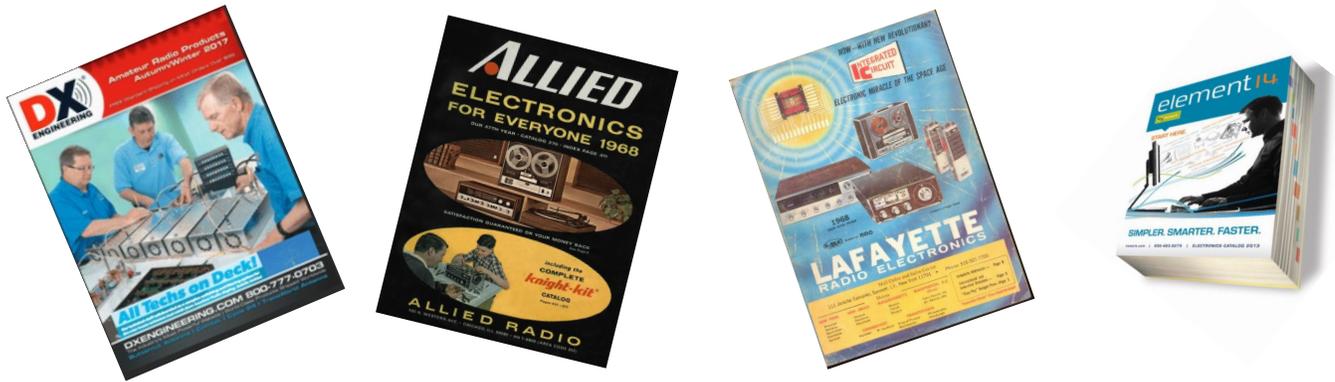
Register 5 days in advance with Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723 or readers@centurtytel.net.



Catalogs are about possibilities

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When I was a kid, I used to regularly get catalogs, such as the Allied Radio and Lafayette Radio catalogs shown below, and pore over them for hours. Even if I couldn't afford to buy the latest Knight-Kit or Lafayette shortwave radio, I could imagine what it would be like. These catalogs were chock full of possibilities.



I spent many hours poring over the Allied and Lafayette catalogs as a kid. These two are from 1968, when I was 13 years old.

So, you can imagine how I felt when, last Thursday, I found both the Autumn/Winter 2017 DX Engineering catalog and the 2018-2019 Newark Electronics/element14 catalog in my mailbox.

DX Engineering has really taken the amateur radio world by storm over the last ten years or so. I probably don't have to tell you about that. If you're an active amateur radio operator, I'm sure that you have heard about—and probably ordered from—DX Engineering.

I think that DX Engineering did a very smart thing by investing the money in a print catalog. There's something about browsing a print catalog that is just more satisfying than browsing online.

DX Engineering has just about everything you need to have fun with amateur radio. The one glaring omission? They still don't carry my study guides!

The Newark/element14 2018-2019 catalog is a completely different beast. Amateur radio operators are only a small part of Newark/element14's market, but one nonetheless. They have, for example, attended the Dayton Hamvention for many years.

As such, the catalog is not a "ham radio" catalog, but if you build stuff at all you'll find something of interest in its 1,799 pages. It includes nearly any kind of electronic part that you might need.

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The section that you might want to start with is the "makerspace" section. In this section, you'll find Raspberry Pis, BeagleBones, and even micro:bits. They really have everything, though, including passive and active components, connectors, cable, and enclosures.

Like I say, these catalogs are all about possibilities. You can search each company's website and find the parts they carry quickly and easily, but that experience is just not the same as browsing a print catalog and daydreaming about what you might find there.

So, get your own copies—they're free—and page through them. I'd be surprised if you didn't run across something that you didn't know about before, and it gave you some ideas about your next amateur radio project.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not browsing through catalogs, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Executive Board Meeting... By Carl Thurston, KC9HDS

It is doubtful that many of our membership have much of an idea about what happens at our club Executive Board Meeting. As we are in the annual process of establishing a new set of Board members and Officers, I thought that it might be nice to shed a little light on the usual proceedings of the Executive Board Meeting.

With the changes that have taken place in our Constitution and Standing Rules, the burden of the governance of our club has been passed to the members of the Executive Board. There remains a bit of confusion as to what exactly that means for the club, the membership, and the Executive Board.

Most members are aware of how things were with the club in the past regarding procedures and voting. I will very briefly outline the way that things were to be able to be more clear about what was and what now is. It was always assumed that all matters regarding the club were to be proposed in the form of a motion that is seconded and passed by the general membership at a membership meeting. But the Constitution and Standing Rules were amended to be compliant with the ARRL and 501 (c)3. As a result of those requirements, things were streamlined to make the general membership meetings more member friendly with little or no business being part of the membership meeting. Nearly all of the business of the club is now taken care of at the Executive Board Meeting instead.

The changes in the Constitution and Standing Rules were carefully gone over by members of the Executive Board and some things that were assumed to be in those documents and weren't were enumerated and included in the changes made. Once everything was in a readable form, the membership voted to ratify those changes and the resulting 7 member Executive Board was put into place.

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Executive Board Meeting cont...

What this means is that the Executive Board is now empowered to shoulder nearly all major decisions about what the club does, how these things are done, and how it is paid for; including how much the Executive Board is able to spend on its own. In the past it was assumed that any expenditures incurred by the club in excess of \$100.00 had to be voted on by the entire membership. That was never set down in writing. Now it is set down but the amount that the Executive Board may allocate for any given item is \$500.00. Anything more than that still requires the vote of the membership to approve it.

Another thing is the definition of what makes a quorum: It was assumed in the past that 10% of the membership was required to have a quorum. That was true. At least in practice, for some time, but when it was realized that such a quorum with our current membership of 30 paid members would be only 3 members it was changed to 25% of the total paid membership.

For the Executive Board, this means that a quorum of the Executive Board is 2 members of that board, Since the President is required to head all meetings, and that the President and one other Executive Board member can constitute a quorum of the Executive Board, it can be seen that two members can change any thing any time that they might want. In most instances, this might be OK, but if there was a President that was of the mind, he and one other Executive Board Member of like mind could do anything that he desired to the club, its rules, its equipment, and its funds without any further check or balance!

This is still a possibility, so we have to hope for a President and Executive Board member that have the best interests of the club as their guide in these things.

