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## Moving Forward...

It was great to see how our membership stepped up to approve the changes that were needed to our Constitution and Standing Rules. Our President and Executive Board worked very hard to correct the things in that document that were vague and at times contradictory. As so often happens when several people try to explain what was intended to be a clear and workable document, things don't always work as intended. The misunderstandings that can result, needed correction. Because of the united effort of many of our club members, we were able to achieve that goal. We now have a Constitution and Standing Rules that are clear, concise, and doable. All those who worked to make this happen are to be lauded as it was not an easy job.

That much is great, but there is much more that needs to be done. We are coming to the time of year where we must nominate and elect a new Executive Board. Our current Executive Board has been in place for a number of years. They have weathered many storms over that time, but they need to look to new members to take our club forward. New blood and new ideas are needed to keep things viable with the running of the RARC. Oh yes, our current Executive Board could continue on, but many of its members are of the opinion that a change of officers is needed. It isn't fair to expect the same people to shoulder the responsibility of the running of our club indefinitely. We must allow and encourage new members to step up and run the club. It is with this in mind that the current Executive Board would like to see that every member who could possibly be nominated to the Executive Board allow themselves to be nominated to serve on that Board. Any members who could serve on the Board should consider being nominated to it. With a strong and committed Board, we will be able to maintain the stability and progress that is needed to ensure that our club continues to prosper.

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## UPCOMING Events for November 2022

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

November 6, 2022	Mark kb9ofk
November 13, 2022	David kd9epn
November 20, 2022	Rick kd9gvs
November 27, 2022	Wayne k0wlo
- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **November 8...**Monthly club meeting at UUF La Crosse
- ♦ **November 21...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable (formerly Arterial Bar and Grill) All members are welcome to attend. Notice new time and place.

## PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

### Greetings to all Club Members,

Now that cooler temperatures are here I'm spending more time in my ham shack. While I enjoy tinkering with RTTY, monitoring Morse code bulletins from W1AW using MRP40 Morse Decoder software, and occasionally checking out RF links via my Ham Shack Hotline phone; I spend the most of my time using and experimenting with packet radio. With my current station setup, I find this the easiest way to get my RF signal out and make contact with other stations. I'm always curious to see how far away of a station I can connect to by using multiple stations in between to achieve that connection. Sometimes the process is a matter of jumping from VHF to UHF or HF (and yes sometimes with a little help from the internet) to make the connection.

In essence this keeps me busy in my spare time. However, this wasn't always the case when it came to my ham radio hobby. It wasn't until I was able to slowly accumulate the necessary equipment that I began to have fun on my own in the ham shack. This got me thinking that there may be other hams in our club just starting out or just struggling to take their station beyond a hand held radio with Tech license privileges. Maybe they need help in getting prepared to take the General license test. At the last board meeting this subject was discussed. We have board members willing to teach classes to get Tech's prepared to take the General test. We al-

so have board members willing to help out with project builds that could be completed in a few hours. These projects could be building various simple 2 Meter antennas or a di-pole antenna to be used for HF. Something that ham could take home after the build and use it at his/her station.

The question becomes whether we have enough interest to pursue any of these proposals, or whether members have better suggestions. In the past the club has sent out an electronic survey to gauge what the general membership wants. I'm going to try reaching out to the membership individually with a little less high tech approach. The plan is to speak in person or on the phone with as many members as possible to get some direct feedback. If that is not possible I will try connecting via email. The idea is to come up with ideas on what else we can do as a club for activities besides meetings that would be fun, interesting, and educational to all members.

For our Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup> club meeting Tim Jacobson will be giving us a presentation titled The Driftless Region. Additionally, we will entertain nominations for the election of 2023 board members in December.

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

Shawn, KD9KGQ



# NVIS Experiment

## Regional radio experiment works

On a sunny, warmish October morning, some horses whinnying nearby, a small group of Hams experimented with short-range emergency HF communication. Not exactly stormy conditions, but that was the point, in good conditions see how well they could communicate beyond VHF radio range in case there would be the need for regional radio contacts. Contacts as close as a couple miles and as far as a couple hundred were excellent—"5-9." "This has possibilities," noted Wayne Oliver, K0WLO.

The NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Skywave) exercise was the product of the La Crosse (WI) Area Emcomm Group to see what's needed for two-way radio communication in an emergency. K0WLO worked phone on 75 meters while Shawn Hicks, KD9KGQ, sent Winlink messages via a nearby repeater.

The group was assessing how effective a tool Near Vertical Incidence Skywave can be in providing reliable communications in the Western Wisconsin, Eastern Minnesota, and NE Iowa region. An August run-through worked 40 meters successfully and the late October exercise worked other Hams with dynamite signals on 75 meters.

Emergency communicators wanting to make regional contacts—ones too far for VHF or UHF—turn to HF (High Frequency) radios and antennas set up for nearby contacts. An example would be a communicator in La Crescent (MN) reaching out to an emergency center in Rochester 60 miles away. Regular HF signals would jump way over

Rochester so the solution is NVIS antennas which tend to shoot a signal almost straight up to the ionosphere so it will come almost straight down. The La Crescent antenna was a wire suspended about three feet off the ground from plastic fence posts.

Before storms and rain shut down the August 40 meter exercise, Drew Neve, AB9NE, made contact after contact ranging from N9ETD in Onalaska to Hams in Ohio, Southern Illinois, and Michigan. "We wanted to have an exercise to generate interest," noted Neve. He added, "we wanted to see if this (NVIS) is an effective replacement."

Oliver explained that NVIS would be a good communication tool if, for instance, we would have a tornado and floods and we needed to communicate with state headquarters in Madison, WI, or St. Paul, MN.

Gear was simple: a 100 watt Yaesu FT 450 transceiver and a 40 meter dipole hung about five feet above the ground. A nearby volleyball net served as a great support.

On Facebook the group invited all amateur radio clubs and individuals in the Tri-State area, (WI/MN/IA) to test their NVIS capabilities on 40/80 meters. "We are doing this to learn," said Oliver.

Bob Seaquist, W9LSE





## Moving Forward ... (continued)

It is the responsibility of all of our membership to do their part in keeping our club moving forward. This is not a job that requires a lot of heavy lifting, but there are some things that need to be done to keep things running. The members of our current Board are willing to help, mentor, and elmer those who are willing to serve on the next Board. So even if you might feel that you don't know enough about the running of our club to serve on our Board, there are those who are willing to help you out. We need to elect a new Board and for that Board to select Offices who will fill the needed roles of our club. As a 501(c) organization, we are required to have a full slate of Officers to comply with that designation.

Our club has a long history of service to the Amateur Radio community and to the local community in general. We have always been active in SkyWarn and we also have been designated as a Weather Ready Nation organization. Our participation in many charitable

events including run walks, biking events and helping with the annual Rotary Lights event has been a constant source of our commitment to help out where ever we can. These along with our other radio related events, such as Field Day, Special Events, and our annual Swap-Fest give our members a chance to use their skills to improve our abilities as Hams and to increase our service to our community.

It is with these things in mind that all of our members are encouraged to consider being more active in Amateur Radio in general and in our club in particular, by stepping up to be nominated and to serve on our Executive Board. We need you to help keep things going in a good direction for our club and for our community.

73, Carl KC9HDS



## BUY-SELL-TRADE-ISO



*Wanted: Articles for The Key*

*Please submit your Article by the 26th of the month and include "The Key" in the subject line.*

*Send your Amateur related classified ad(s) to Scott, NLT noon the 26th of each month to kb3mkd@arrl.net. Please Include "The Key" in the subject line.*

Looking for items for this space

## Thoughts ...

As the year grinds down to its end, there are some things that we might consider, like what did we do right and what could have been done better. All in all, the RARC did a lot of things this year that were both among our usual activities and there were also a few items that were over due. Oh yes, we did all of the usual events that are on the calendar every year, like Field Day, Winter Field Day, our Annual Picnic, SwapFest, SkyWarn and the rest of the recurring events. Added to that list are some things that needed to be addressed.

Our Constitution and Standing Rules has caused confusion and made some of our members uneasy as to how to facilitate the things outlined in them. It took a lot of soul searching and consideration of the causes and effects of those documents and how to make them more workable and easy to follow. Thanks to the efforts of many of our members a much more usable set of rules were written, discussed and perfected, and it is hoped it will result in a more meaningful and understandable set of guide lines for the continued progress of our club.

Our old Constitution and Standing Rules were both time worn and contradictory in some places and they needed to be streamlined and revised. After much work, our Executive Board was able to rectify them. It was also, thanks to the action of our membership who achieved a quorum and voted to pass the changes quickly and easily, that we now can move forward with confidence that the needed actions of our club can happen.

Some of the other things that needed attention were: our Special Services designation was updated and a revised agenda outlined. These things were needed to keep our 501(c)3 certification. Our current Executive Board has been in place for a long time, and it has grown weary of the duties and responsibilities of running our club, so an extra effort has been made to see that there will be a smooth transition to our new Executive Board. On that note, we are still look-

ing for members willing to be nominated to serve on the next Executive Board. Planning for new suggested presentations and projects for this next year's membership meetings have been laid out. The Executive Board has worked to make the transition to the new Board as easy and smooth as possible. Every effort has been made to ensure that the next Executive Board will be able to assume it's duties with little effort.

Ours is an old and established organization that has fared well with the changes needed for it to continue to move forward. In the past we have always had members who were willing to step up and do what was needed for our club to thrive. It is expected that that tradition will continue for many more years. Any members willing to serve on the Board are encouraged to allow themselves to be nominated to the next Executive Board. Anyone who thinks that they might be willing to serve on the Board, can be assured that the previous Board will be willing to help mentor the new members as they assume the roles of the various offices on that Board.

Our out going Board has served us well, but they are in need of new ideas and new members to see that things continue to work for our club. Even the best set of officers have a tendency to wind down after a time so new Board members are a must. Please feel free to make suggestions and consider being an officer on the next Executive Board. Remember, the RARC needs new ideas and new officers so you are all encouraged to get more active in the business of running our club.

73 de Carl kc9hds

## 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. Please include the word "Key" in the subject line of your submission.
- \* 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 Fork and Fable 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.
- \* 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

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

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

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