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A Time to Reflect...

There are many things that we should be thankful for. The main things to be thankful for to me are those who we have met along the way. I feel that we should be especially thankful for those in our Ham community that have opened themselves to us and helped to show us the way forward. It takes someone special to be able to allow others to benefit from their knowledge and expertise. It is much easier to hoard one's knowledge and abilities and not help out where needed. It takes a lot of patience and a giving spirit to step in and give someone the lift that they need when they need it. The members of our local Ham community have been especially blessed with members who have both the skills and the time to help out.

We are a Service organization after all. We have been very fortunate with all of the "Old Timers" who have been part of our club. There are so many who have filled this description over the years. Sadly most of those Hams who come to mind are now silent keys. For those of us who were able to enjoy their presence while they were here, our gratitude is undeniable. The list of those who have helped to make our club what it is, is long and impressive. To list all of those who have "Elmered" us along the way would be nearly impossible, as no matter how hard one tries to list them all, one invariably will over look some of them.

It is much better to list the skills that those individuals brought to our club that made life as a Ham so much richer and well rounded. Over the years, we have had: Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers, Electronics Professionals, Authors, and Educators. The range of the skills of these Hams is really remarkable. Among our honored members there have been many who have been life long seekers of knowledge in all forms, not just Ham Radio. The variety of valued skills present in our club is impressive indeed. On top of the various Professional people with advanced degrees, there are also a large number of self taught individuals whose knowledge and experiences are vast because of the burning desire to find out how things work, why they work, and how they can be improved.

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UPCOMING Events for December 2023

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

December 3, 2023	Mark kb9ofk
December 10, 2023	David kd9epn
December 17, 2023	Rick kd9gvs
December 24, 2023	Wayne k0wlo
December 31, 2023	Mark kb9ofk
- ♦ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ♦ **December 5...**Monthly club meeting at UUF La Crosse This is the annual election. Please attend.
- ♦ **December 18...**Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Fork and Fable. All members are welcome to attend. Monday this month.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello, RARC Members and Friends!

Before getting into this column, I'd be remiss if I didn't promote the Skywarn Recognition event that will take place on Dec. 2 at the NOAA site atop Grandad's Bluff. We will operate cooperatively with MVARA. The operations will begin at roughly 8 AM local time and go on through about 4 PM. There will also be a set-up effort to begin Friday afternoon. I hope many of you can make it, get a bite to eat (there has historically been food up there) and take a turn operating.

I'm writing this column Sunday evening before Thanksgiving, so it doesn't seem real to me that we are getting to the holiday season already. We are, though, and I feel as though I have many things for which to be thankful. Ham radio and this club are two of them.

I'm thankful for ham radio. I'm thankful to have an interest in a vocation that is both interesting and can challenge me at the rate I wish to be challenged. If I do not wish a challenge, I can engage with ham radio in a relaxed way, but can also push myself in any number of ways if I desire a challenge. I can use a radio or antenna that's been manufactured, or challenge myself with a homebrew project as well.

I'm thankful it is an activity that, by its nature, is centered on meeting new people and communicating with them. It is international by nature, and we are able to contact people from different parts of the world without having the political differences of the nations play a part in the discussion.

Amateur radio has an emergency support component as well. Hams have a long history of helping out communities in time of need. I'm happy that I can play a role in supporting that effort.

Ham radio is a very adaptable pursuit that can play a part in any number of other things I might do. As an avid bicycler, I can take a handheld radio along on a tour and have it in case it is needed. I can also bring along a small HF radio along, string up a wire in a tree and make some contacts from my campsite in the evening.

There are many subcultures and groups that pur-

sue their own interests. We have groups like PO-TA, SOTA, WWFF, IOTA, SKCC, NAQCC, Fists, LICWC, and CWOPs in areas that I know of (I'm a member of some of these), and there are many parts of ham radio about which I know next to nothing. In 45 years of being involved in ham radio, I've never been involved in EME, meteor scatter, SSTV, ATV, AMSAT, and I've never contacted the ISS. I'm sure they all have their own interest groups as well. They are all part of what makes radio interesting and valuable. I'm glad they are part of what we do.

This club is something that inspires appreciation, too. I'm listening to the Sunday night net as I'm writing and hearing many friends I've met through the club. I'm thankful for them. I'm particularly happy that the repeater audio is very good tonight.

The club is supportive in whatever growth I wish to pursue in radio. I've been reacquainting myself with morse code, and it is something I can bring to club efforts like Field Day. I have interest in digital modes like Winlink, and Packet, too. There are people in the club that offer help and have helped me in that as well.

It is a strength that the people in this club do not take themselves too seriously and that they always look forward to spending time together.

I'd like to thank the membership in the club for its support as I wrap up this first year of my Presidency. It has been a very rewarding endeavor. The Board has never failed to provide good guidance and support. The club members have showed up to participate in events. I hope each of you have enjoyed your participation.

Tnx es 73,
Drew Neve
AB9NE



Nuggets

Save the dates

We have reservations for the Dave English Shelter at Community Park in Onalaska for Winter Field day January 27, for the Glen Fox Shelter in Glen Fox Park in Onalaska June 22 for Field Day, and for Rowe Park Shelter #2 in Onalaska for July 28 for the club picnic. We are trying to get Bethany Church for our Swapfest for June 15. More on that when we have word.

We are preparing for ham radio classes to start early next year. If any of your friends or other acquaintances are interested let us know. When the time and place is set we will let you know.



A Time to Reflect...(Continued)

Amateur Radio tends to foster a desire and drive to push the limits of what has been done and to dream of what might yet be done. Everyone seems to have their own direction to strive for. This is one of the most important reasons for becoming a Ham. There seems to be no limits as to what can be done within this hobby.

The people that we meet on the air and in person create an atmosphere that is most conducive to encourage everyone to do more, to do better, and to help out where ever possible.

We are enriched by those who have taken the time and the effort to make us better Hams and better people. We don't always realize what we have until it is gone. This is the case with many of the silent keys that come to mind. Often they have been individuals whose real merit has not been realized while they were with us. Sometimes their own personalities have stood in the way of the development of a real appreciation of what they had to offer. This all came rushing to my mind with the passing of one of those

"Old Guys" who became a silent key recently. Every once in a while we encounter someone who has such a strong personality that they are difficult to deal with. All who knew Richard "Red" Haines WOOW will agree that he was such a person. His knowledge and accomplishments were so vast that it is difficult to fully understand him as he tended to be so hard to follow at times. I don't think that we will ever be able to completely understand what made Red tick. Suffice it to say that he was a challenge to all who met him. Rest easy Red Haines, your tasks are done and you will be missed by many who have known you. We are thankful for your presence while you were with us.

Thank you and 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@arri.net. Please Include "The Key" in the subject line.

Looking for items for this space

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 consist 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. 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 their 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 Cresent, 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 Tuesday 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.....Drew Neve, AB9NE Email...ab9ne@yahoo.

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