



INSIDE THIS

VE Testing at Wild Rose	1
President's Comments	2
VHF/UHF Happenings	4
Nuggets	5
Buy, Sell, Trade, ISO	5
Club Info	6

VE Testing at Wild Rose...

Recently I was involved with a VE Test Session at Wild Rose, WI. Roger Reader KA9BKK had made a connection with a group of Hams in the Wild Rose area. It all started with a group of Hams there that wanted our old repeater. Our club had an old repeater that we wanted to pass on to some group that could use it. Roger found such a group in the Wild Rose area. When he made arrangements to give that old repeater away he met a Ham that was in need of some help with a VE Test Session that he wanted to run. Roger said that he would be glad to help with this, so it was decided that there would be such a session held at the Wild Rose Fire Station on January 20, 2024. Preparing for that session, Roger, with his usual sense of thoroughness decided to ask Tom O'Brien WB9BJQ and myself Carl KC9HDS to go along to have the needed VEs present to run a good session, we agreed and planned on going along. Originally there were to be 20 taking the test but as it turned out, several things changed in the course of preparations for the test session.

Roger planned to pick up Tom and me at 0645 and he did. He had folders set up for each person testing and the appropriate answer sheets and question pamphlets included in each packet. All was in readiness as we set out for Wild Rose. The day was as nice as can be expected for the middle of January. The temperature was around 0 degrees, the sky was clear and it was sunny. The drive to Wild Rose was pleasant enough, the roads were nearly empty and there was little snow or ice on the roads.

Continued on page 3

UPCOMING Events for February 2024

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

February 4, 2024	Greg k9lec
February 11, 2024	David kd9epn
February 18, 2024	Rick kd9gvs
February 25, 2024	Wayne k0wlo
- ◆ **Saturday** morning Rag chew, weekly on the 146.970 repeater, 8:00-9:00 AM.
- ◆ **February 6** ...Monthly meeting at UU Fellowship Hall, LA Crosse
- ◆ **February 20** ...Trustee Meeting, Time: 5:30 PM, Las Margaritas. All members are welcome to attend. [Note new location](#)

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Hello, RARC Members and Friends!

It's Winter Field Day Eve as I'm writing this. I'm eager for the beginning of our 2024 events, and to see what I hope is many of you join us for it.

The other item we have coming soon is a licensing class for new folks to become Technician licensees. We have a few people who have expressed interest, and all of you are the best recruiters we have to get more into such a class. We also hope that it will become the first of a series of these classes. It'll be good to get more people on the air, and into club membership. Please let me or one of the Board members know of folks who might be interested, so we can contact them and let them know when and where the classes will take place.

As I've mentioned in this column and at meetings, we're always looking for activities and events to add to our calendar. We are also looking at ways to improve all of the things that we do as a club. One of those things that we do is this newsletter, The Key. I write a column each month, and Carl Thurston has been very diligent about contributing updates and reviews regarding club events and whatever else happens within the club. I'd like to invite the rest of the membership (that means you) to think about contributing something on a regular basis. What is your favorite aspect of amateur radio? What is happening within that subculture of our hobby? We'd like to read about it and keep current. The next thing you know, you'll inspire somebody else to give it a try. That's what Elmering is all about.

Do you enjoy Emergency Communications?

Do you enjoy the digital repeaters?

Do you enjoy digital modes?

Do you enjoy DX?

Do you enjoy homebrewing?

Do you enjoy satellite communications?

Do you enjoy mobile communications?

Do you enjoy portable communications?

Are you a tube radio enthusiast?

Are you a software-based radio enthusiast?

Are you a newcomer?

These are just a few things that occur to me off the top of my head. Any of them would be something that would warrant its own column in The Key. It would give you the chance to learn more about your interest and help to inspire others. There are many other aspects of interest, too. Don't think that this is a complete list.

Our 2024 events kick off this weekend. I hope to see you there!

Tnx es 73,

Drew Neve

AB9NE



VE Testing at Wild Rose... (continued)

We arrived at 0845 and when we got there no one else had yet arrived. People started showing up around 0915. We waited in the car as we didn't have the key to the Fire Station. None of the people who came so far didn't have a key either, so we continued to wait and more people arrived shortly.

When the person with the key arrived we finally went inside and started to set things up for the test session. There was nearly 20 people there, but as it turned out there were only 8 there to be tested, all of the rest of the people who came were actually VEs themselves. It became apparent that there had been a bit of miscommunication that took place so we had 3 VEs who checked IDs and passed out the packets, 3 more VEs who corrected the tests, with the rest of us dealing with paperwork and collecting the fees. All in all, it went very smoothly and was a nice experience.

The Fire Station was a fairly new brick and mortar building that doubled as a town hall and it even had a museum of fire fighting equipment there on display, plus it had a well equipped kitchen and restrooms. For such a small town it was very impressive. So all of those accommodations made for a very comfortable event. Someone brought a large selection of Amateur Radio and ARES/RACES literature that was free for the taking and they had posters and flyers for their upcoming Winter Field Day event. Obviously the people of Wild Rose are very active in Amateur Radio and take a lot of pride in their efforts to make their town as inviting as it can be.

The testing itself went fairly well. 6 tested for Technician and 5 passed and 2 tested to upgrade to Extra Class and they both passed. It all ended by 1115 so having completed the tasks, Roger, Tom, and I headed for home stopping in Watoma for lunch at a Culver's. We arrived back home by 1430. It was a most unusual VE session, but it did give us an opportunity to meet with some other Hams from the eastern part of the state and see how they worked together to do VE testing.

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73 Carl KC9HDS



VHF/UHF happenings

Hello all,

I have been asked to provide input for "The Key" focused on VHF/UHF topics as they relate to Amateur radio. Sooo, here it goes...

This will be a follow-up to an article I wrote for the December 2022 issue of The Key, that chronicled the Yaesu DR-2X 444.475 repeater replacement that commenced in October 2022. For those who are not aware, the repeater is now back in service after a month or so of down time last fall and does have Wires-X access, and can be connected to a myriad of rooms worldwide by anyone that has a Yaesu C4FM capable radio.

The new repeater has been in-service for over a year now, and for the most part has performed well, that is until September 29th of last year. I remember the date specifically because I happened to be on my way to a golf outing in Sparta that day and was listening to a Wires-X net on my mobile when the repeater signal abruptly disappeared. I attempted to key it up, but got no response. The first thing you hope for was a power outage at the site. However, I had a bad feeling that it was something a bit more serious. Later that day, I contacted Dan, AB9TS and advised him that we needed to make a site visit. Dan has been a tremendous help in the set-up at the repeater site.

When we arrived at the site, the repeater was powered on and

the front panel display was lit up, which was a bit curious due to the fact it is necessary to push and hold a button to activate that panel once it has been "put to sleep". Nothing else seemed obviously out of place that we could see. We attempted to key it up while standing nearby. The receiver appeared to be functioning normally, but got nothing from the transmit side. We performed a quick SWR check on the antenna with Dan's VNA and everything checked out there. We removed the repeater and I took it home to do some further testing there. I connected it to a separate transmit and receive antenna here at my QTH for a few days, checked it with an SWR/wattmeter but got the same results, no or very little output from the transmitter. Also did a factory reset, but to no avail.

I want to thank another Yaesu repeater owner/operator for his invaluable advise I received along the way. You may not know him locally, but his name is Mike, call sign NOANE from St. Peter MN.

The only thing really left to do at that point was to box the unit up, and send it off to Yaesu service in Cypress, California for a "vacation". Fortunately Yaesu provides a 3 year warranty, so other than the shipping fee, there would be no cost involved.

Stay tuned to the "The Key" for further updates on this and other VHF/UHF topics....



73 fer now....Rick KD9GVS



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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 Swap-fest for June 15. More on that when we have word.



Note from the treasurer

When you send your dues check or donation to the club, it is picked up by the secretary and recorded, then passed on to the treasurer for deposit. It can take up to 4 weeks for your check to be deposited.

Please be patient, and call if you have any questions.

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.

I have 2 radios that might be of interest to the ham trade community. The main one is my Kenwood R1000 purchased new in about 1980-3 timeframe. Cost was around \$450-500.

I have the Service Manual and other supporting bulletins. The radio does work, although I have not tested all bands for more than 5 years. The link below is for a review done by a ham radio organization and is favorable, even as of today. I will be asking \$150 for this.

The second radio is a portable AOR AR-1500 scanner. The has digital tuning from 500 KHz to 1.3 GigaHertz. (No gaps).

This unit is hand held and I believe could be fixed by someone with patience and skill with tiny trace soldering. I am willing to part with to a good home.

Dave Long dlong5241@gmail.com 608-797-2327 (cell)

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

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 Las Margaritas 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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